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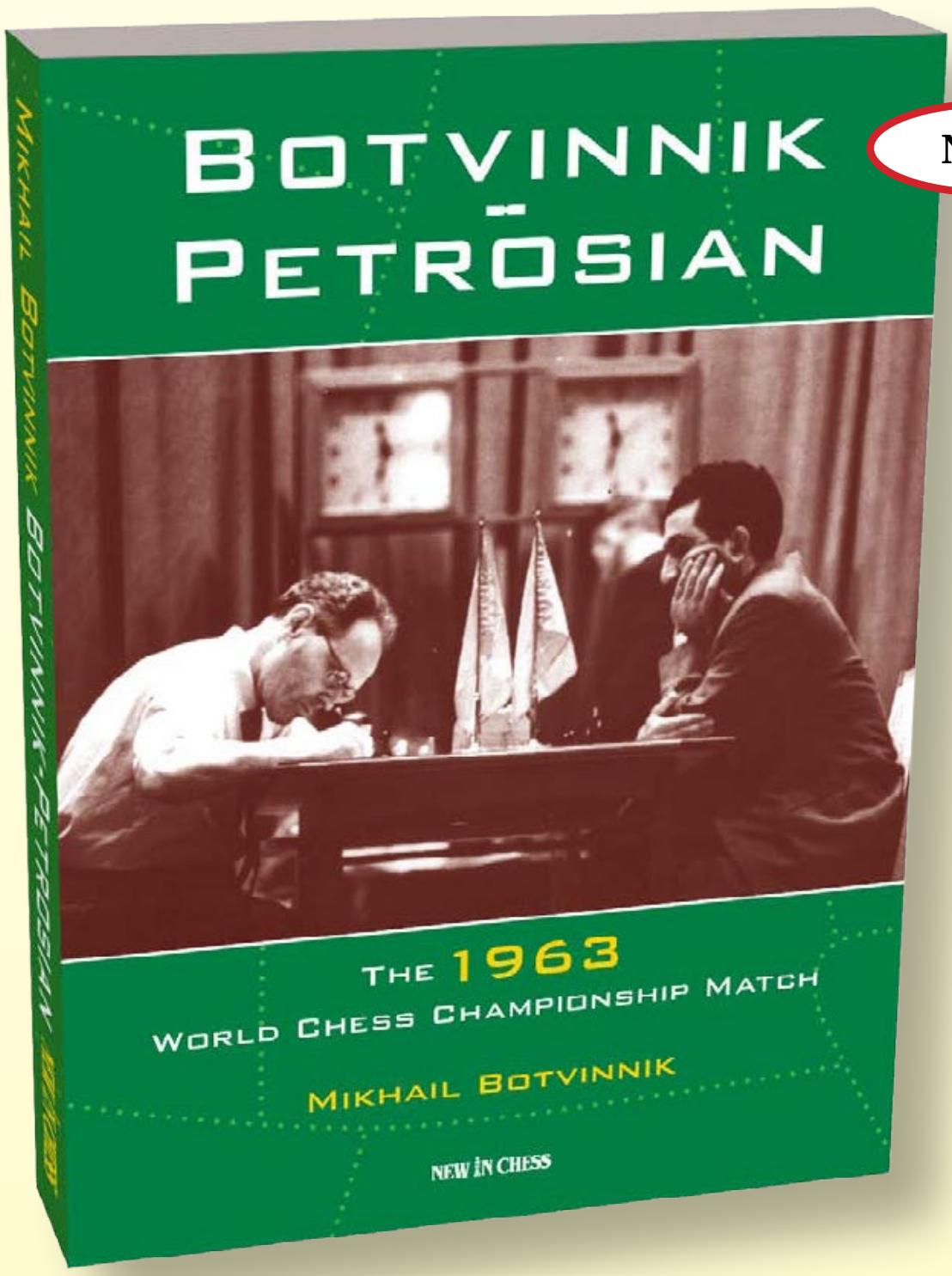

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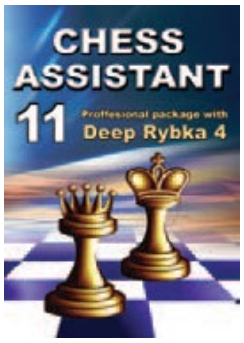

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2010 Issue 4

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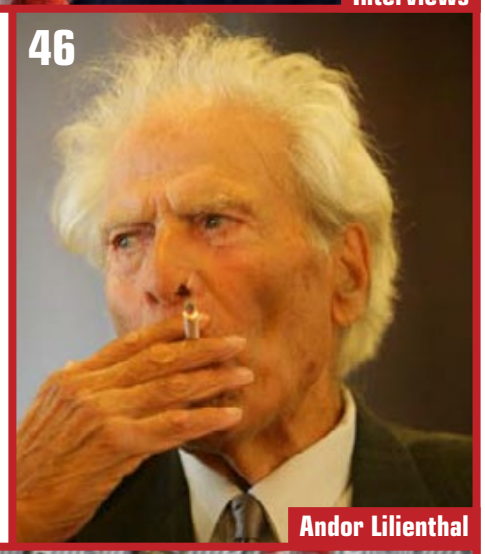

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'This was the most intense match I ever played.' Those were the words that a happy and delighted World Champion Vishy Anand spoke after he had successfully defended his title against Bulgaria's Veselin Topalov. Till the very last day it was unclear who was going to prevail in a world championship match that was so tense that any outcome was imaginable. Everything was decided in the twelfth and last game when Topalov, unsettled by the threat of a tie-break, threw caution to the winds and Anand hit home with a deadly counter-offensive. Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam reports from the Bulgarian capital.

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The past ten years the Dagomys Hotel, situated in the settlement of the same name on the outskirts of Sochi, welcomed countless chess players for tournaments and training camps. With the 2010 Russian Team Championship this tradition came to an end. The hotel will be upgraded for the Olympic Winter Games of 2014.

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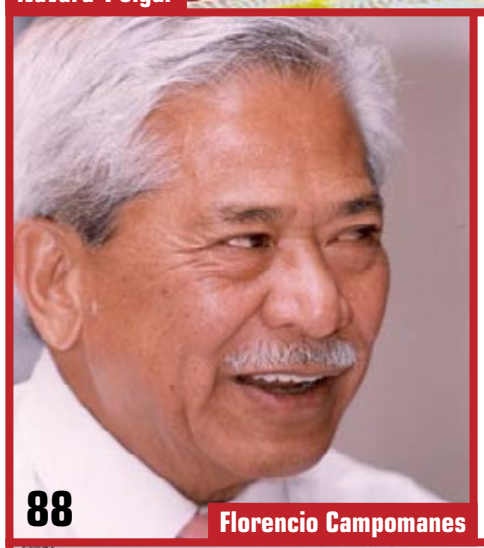
Bent Larsen

Navara-Polgar



Florencio Campomanes

Garry Kasparov's column

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COVER PHOTO
Vishy Anand: New In Chess

Finally a Radiant Future

In early May, Israeli businessman David Kaplan unveiled his grandiose plans for the future of chess. Mr. Kaplan was appointed Chief Executive Officer Development of FIDE in November 2007. As we never heard anything from Mr. Kaplan since this date, and as he states that the world will only get to see the true size of his ambitious project in September-October of this year, we have this nagging feeling that his bombastic announcement is somehow connected with the FIDE presidential elections during the Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk. A brief look at the plans certainly reveals that he is a thinker in the league of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. Chess planetariums (consisting of numerous pavilions) will be built in the capitals of several countries, where we will see chess tournaments 24/7! And those who don't have the opportunity to visit the planetariums can play online in a mega-tournament in which players of all levels can make big money. The tournament will be divided into 64 (yes, exactly the same number as there are squares on the chess board!) levels and on each level one million dollars can be won. Half the total prize-fund, $ 32 million, will be put up by Mr. Kaplan himself. The other half shouldn't be a problem either, as two banks have already agreed to invest in the project. For Mr. Kaplan the sky is the limit and he finds it a bit hard to believe that no one has had his idea before. After all, there are 200-300 million people that play chess, of which one million do so 'in a professional environment'. Furthermore, one billion people are passionate about chess. Says David Kaplan. Why has no one ever told us this before? True, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov once estimated the number of people who know how to play chess at 500 million, but when he said this it was not clear if he had included other aficionados than the passengers on Planet Earth in his calculations.

And There's More to Come

David Kaplan is not only going to create dozens of new chess millionaires, he is also going to revolutionize the spreading of chess news and information to the masses. For this purpose he has created CNC, which in some places was said to stand for Chess News Corporation, but on their website is said to mean Chess Network Company. The real impact of CNC will only become tangible after the elections in September, of course, but we could take a first peek at the World Championship match in Sofia, where CNC was an official partner of FIDE. During the match their photographers were the only ones with access to the stage (which all other photographers resented, particularly at the closing ceremony, when they were all kept behind a rope some 40-50 metres from the stage), while they broadcast the games live with the translated comments of Sergey Shipov on their site. So, all in all not an awful lot of content for a company that promises that it will 'renew the world of chess', but perhaps we should be more patient. In fact, this was what we were told when we had the privilege to sit down with two key figures in the company to talk about their plans: Chief Strategy Officer (and WGM) Anna Burtasova and PR Manager Alexandra Naydenova. To avoid any misunderstanding we immediately bluntly stated that we failed to be impressed by the empty phrases on their website ('Our main aim is to bring innovative and effective business solutions into the chess world in order to create market strategy for chess development and increase the commercial attractiveness of chess', etc.) and felt they had their figures all wrong (about the number of people playing chess, that is). Not a nice way to start a conversation, but the ladies smiled understandingly at our incredulity and said that we would meet again in three years' time in New York and that by then we would think differently. It goes without saying that we hope that they are right (we've started counting the days!), but first we begged them to reveal something more about the genius and originality of Mr. Kaplan. They thought for a while, admitted that

NEW IN CHESS

Chess Network Company Chief Strategy Officer Anna Burtasova and PR Manager Alexandra Naydenova.

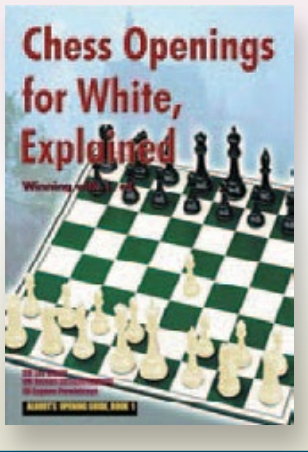
they couldn't think of anything specific off the top of their heads, and then, having exchanged some meaningful looks, they decided to let us in on one of the creative plans he has: top grandmasters will get shares in the company. For free! So that they can only profit from it. Now how about that?

But There's Also Trouble Ahead

Ah, the FIDE presidential elections. What a sorry mess they are once again threatening to become. Last time we noted that our gut feeling told us that the Russian Chess Federation would endorse the candidacy of Anatoly Karpov, the 12th World Champion who wants to take over the helm from Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. This gut feeling was partly right and partly wrong. On May 14th, a meeting of the Supervisory Council of the Russian Chess Federation was to take the final decision. To begin with, it was important that this meeting took place at all, as Council president Arkady Dvorkovich ('having talked to several council members on the phone') had announced publicly well ahead of this vote that the RCF supported Ilyumzhinov. Karpov firmly contested that announcement and rightly so, as on May 14th, at the meeting of the Council at the Central Chess Club, 17 from the 32 council members voted for him. Conspicuously absent at this meeting were Ilyumzhinov and Dvorkovich. At the last moment, the latter had tried to move the meeting to his office or a bank owned by a friend of Ilyumzhinov's. When the council members at the Central Chess Club decided to go on with their vote anyway, as there was a quorum, Dvorkovich sent out a letter calling the vote 'illegal'. After several of his arguments for this illegality had been refuted, his ultimate claim was essentially that the Russian Chess Federation was an illegal organization, as he had forgotten to register it (sic). In one of a growing stack of open letters Karpov wrote about this: 'Mr. Dvorkovich virtually accuses himself of failing to register the NGO he was appointed to supervise. Regardless, he well knows that State registration relates only to banking and tax matters, and not the internal activities of the NGO. Moreover, Mr. Dvorkovich has repeatedly pretended to act on behalf of the Russian Chess Federation – the same RCF he now says is an illegitimate organization. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that he will say anything to attack the election results regardless of consistency or accuracy.' And Karpov further notes: 'Mr. Dvorkovich's position in the Russian Chess Federation was granted by the Russian Congress, the same Congress that granted Mr. Alexander Bakh his position. The difference between the two positions is that Mr. Bakh, not Mr. Dvorkovich, was assigned the right to sign documents on behalf of the Russian Chess Federation. Accordingly, Mr. Dvorkovich has no authority to act unilaterally on behalf of the Russian Chess Federation. He attempts to place himself above the law (..). It is worth noting that following the guidelines of President Medvedev, the Gossoviet (State Council) of Russia recently ordered senior government officials to step down from directing national sports organizations.'

Arkady Dvorkovich and Anatoly Karpov when they still were friends. (Who's giving the simul?)

So, what have we got now? On the one hand there is Karpov, whose candidacy gets support from a rapidly growing number



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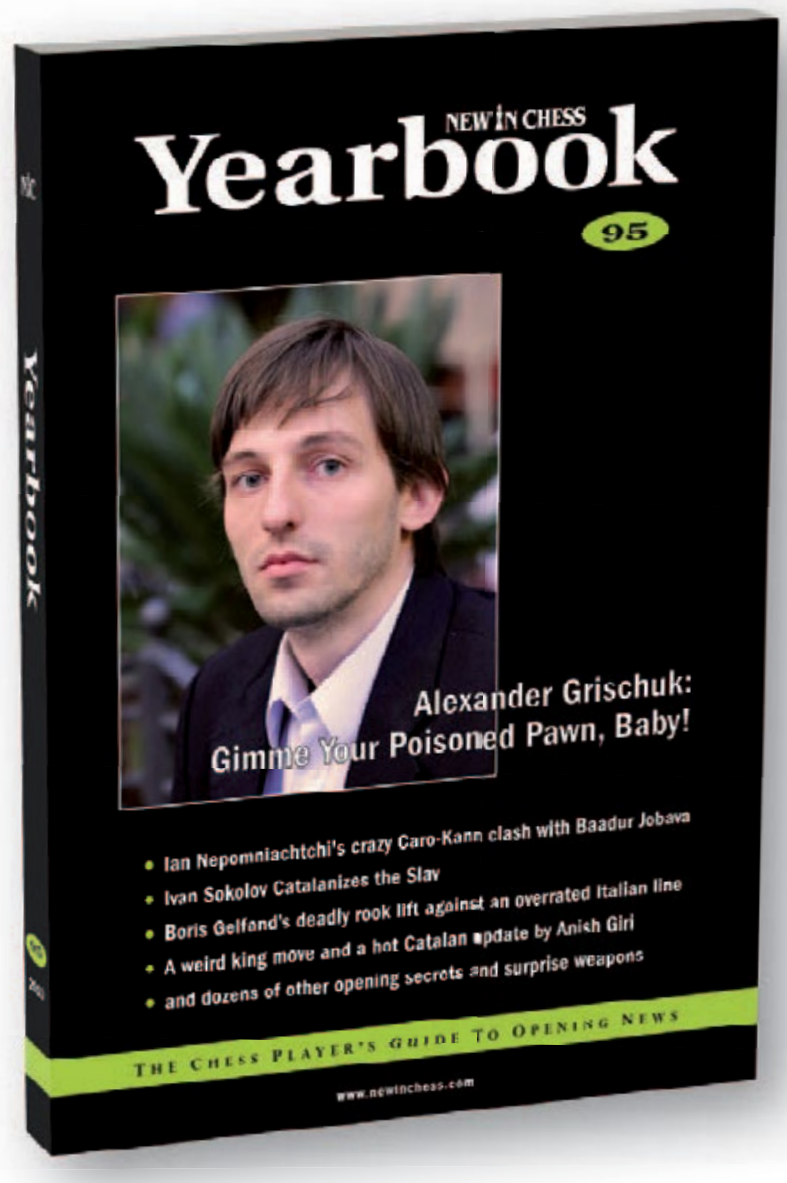
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- How can you survive with black against Alexey Dreev in the Grünfeld Indian?
- What miracle move saved Anish Giri in the Slow Slav?
- How does Jan Gustafsson walk over the Hedgehog without hurting his foot?
- Was Frank Marshall right to abandon 5.d4 in the Giuoco Piano?
- What novelty did Levon Aronian play on move 5 in the Anti-Anti-Grünfeld?
- What was Baadur Jobava’s crazy try in the Caro-Kann?
- Has Sokolov opened a new chapter for White with 5.g3 in the Slav?

And much more...

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of federations, who has the backing of the majority of the Supervisory Council of the RCF and of most top players, and who was the proud centre of attention at a successful fund-raiser in New York, where Garry Kasparov and Magnus Carlsen expressed their support. On the other hand we have Ilyumzhinov and Dvorkovich. The number of countries that have expressed their support for Ilyumzhinov lags far behind the number Karpov can boast, but the incumbent knows that he is surrounded by board members who (out of self-interest) will do anything to get him re-elected. And he has Dvorkovich, an aide to president Medvedev and an extremely powerful politician. His support for Ilyumzhinov indicates that chess is about the last thing all this is about. This internal Russian fight is about political power and financial gain, and we know that in such situations in today's Russia the leaders don't shrink from acting outside the law if their interests require this. As became painfully clear when this issue was about to go to press. When Julia Ioffe reported on the trueslant.com website: 'Today, at around 2:15 Moscow time, black-suited men from the private security firm "Peper" arrived at the Federation's offices, and presented Federation president Aleksandr Bakh with a diktat signed by Dvorkovich saying that Peper was now in charge. They then kicked out the regular security guards and sealed off some rooms in the building, as a helpless Bakh called the police.'

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Antoaneta Stefanova and Zurab Azmaiparashvili demonstrated the joy of thinking for yourself.

Breath of Fresh Air

We don't know how many people worldwide have been following the games from Sofia live, but it is safe to say that they had more possibilities to do so than ever. As far as we could glean, the professionals in the press room had clear preferences. Sergey Shipov's comments on crestbook.com in Russian or translated into English on www.chessnc.com were closely followed, as were the live notes on www.chessdom.com and the evaluations in dry (often impenetrable) figures of Rybka 4 (beta version) on www.chessok.com. Of course, everyone had his or her own engine(s) running as well and here both the usual suspects, Rybka and Fritz, were popular, as well as the new favourite (if only to say that you don't have Rybka or Fritz, yawn) Stockfish. Obviously, all these were also accessible to the people at home, but we guess most of them followed the games in their online chess clubs, where they could choose between expert commentary or chatting with other members about what their engines had seen.

Still, probably the best way to follow the games and feel the real tension was by listening to the audio commentary on the official website. Particularly after Game 4, when the match organizer had the bright idea of forbidding further use of engines by the commentators. He rightly stated that by blindly following and repeating computer conclusions the commentators insulted the players and robbed the listeners of the true excitement of the fascinating fights they produced. The result was a breath of fresh air. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and Antoaneta Stefanova, a highly experienced grandmaster and a former women's World Champion, began to discuss the games as they saw them unfold, trying to describe the players' ideas and giving their personal opinions. They undoubtedly made the occasional mistake, but their audience got so much more than the imagination-killing streams of computer assessments.

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Kirsan Ilyumzhinov owns an impressive collection of photos that picture him together with world leaders and celebrities. President Putin, President Medvedev, Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama, Saddam Hussein, he's met them all and he can prove it. As soon as the official part of the closing ceremony of the world championship match in Sofia was over the FIDE president rushed over to Vishy Anand. He handed his aid Berek Balgabaev his mobile phone and asked the World Champion to pose for a photograph together with him. For this collection? To show his love of chess? To show delegates that Anand is a friend of his and that they should vote for him? Who knows, but given the energetic stride with which he crossed the hall, it is safe to say that he didn't want to miss the opportunity.

‘This was the most intense match I have ever played.’ Those were the words that a happy and delighted World Champion Vishy Anand spoke after he had successfully defended his title against Bulgaria’s Veselin Topalov. Till the very last day it was unclear who was going to prevail in a world championship match that was so tense that any outcome was imaginable. Who would have the strength to go the last mile: the challenger, who stuck to his own Sofia rules and strived for a protracted fight in each and every game, or the incumbent, who had a tough time fighting the pressure, but showed enough masterly play to remain the slight favourite? Everything was decided in the 12th and last game, when Topalov, unsettled by the threat of a tiebreak, threw caution to the winds and Anand hit home with a deadly counter-offensive.

Anand RETAINS TITLE IN DRAMATIC LAST GAME

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World Champion Vishy Anand shoots a glance at challenger Veselin Topalov in the opening phase of Game 11. All through the match the players tried to avoid eye contact.

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam

The day of Game 12 started in bright sunshine. Next to the Military Club, where the match for the world championship was held, the outdoor terrace of restaurant Victoria was filled with business people having lunch shielded from the sun by big parasols. In the press room on the first floor of the Military Club the tables were brightly lit by the light falling in through the high windows. There was little talk. Nervousness, tension and anticipation kept most from speaking much. Suddenly a match that had occupied everyone's minds for several weeks could be over any moment. At first 12 games with free days every two rounds had felt like an endless stretch. Last week, when there were still four games to be played and the score was tied someone opined that a four-game match was rather short to decide a world championship. When two rounds on the score was still tied with two games to go, a clever wit had said that essentially we were back at the knock-out format. Two games, if needed followed by a rapid and blitz play-off, would decide the highest chess title.

Now, after a further draw in Game 11, there was only one game to go, and the prospect of a tie-break was not unlikely. But Topalov was White, and his most ardent fans, silently gathered at the back of the press centre, hoped that once again their Vesco would put pressure on the World Champion. He didn't need to get a big advantage from the opening, as long as there was something to play for. In that case he'd give his all and continue to fight as long as there were pieces and pawns on the board. Following the Sofia rules that he and his manager Silvio Danailov believe in. But of course his supporters also knew that the most probable result would be a draw. In any case they were not ready

to consider a loss. And who could blame them? The last seven classical games between Anand and Topalov that had been decisive had all been won by White. Little did they know that this afternoon the weather in Sofia would change as in a cheap novel. In the course of the afternoon dark clouds gathered above the Military Club, and shortly after 7 p.m. thunderclaps and torrents of rain washed away their dreams.

NEW IN CHESS

The Military Club in the centre of Sofia was the venue of the match for the World Championship.

Around a quarter to three the cars with the players arrive at the back of the Military Club. First Anand and his wife and manager Aruna arrive from the Hilton Hotel at the other end of town. For Topalov and his manager it's a shorter ride from the Grand Hotel Sofia in the city centre, but invariably they arrive two minutes later, even if this means they have to wait around the corner. As they enter the venue, both players are meticulously frisked. Security is extremely tight. You're not even allowed to have a switched off mobile phone on you. After the first five minutes of the game a special curtain is drawn on the stage. The spectators can see the players, but the players cannot look into the audience. Unfortunately, the camera that films the players for the official website is also on the wrong side of the curtain, so that a worldwide audience can only have a hazy view of their faces. In the playing hall, phone signals are distorted by a Russian device for which the organizers needed special permission from the Bulgarian secret service, as according to Bulgarian law they are the only ones that can interfere with telephone traffic.

According to Danailov, all these measures were taken at the express request of the Anand camp: 'We gave them everything, absolutely everything. They are treated like kings. We asked for only one thing, the Sofia rules, and this they declined.' However, imposing a ban on draw offers is not too difficult if you're playing a match. When Topalov made it clear that he wasn't going to offer draws or accept draw offers, Anand had little choice but to play on. Which in some games led to slightly hilarious scenes when the players were seeking to reach a three-fold repetition to end the game.

Yet, despite these sometimes odd situations, it was Topalov's uncompromising attitude that made this match such a memorable fight. Every day everyone knew that they could expect a prolonged battle in which anything could happen. Time and again it was proven how fascinating ostensibly simple or even 'drawn' positions can be. For Danailov it's part of a philosophy: 'It's not something aimed against Anand, we're thinking about the future. Chess has always been amateurish. Now we are trying to have strict rules to promote and sell chess. We are in show business. We have to offer a show, we cannot offer nothing and ask money for it.'

His wish to give the sponsors their money's worth was understandable, as there was a lot of it at stake. For the winner the net(!) amount of €1,200,000 was waiting, while the loser was to earn €800,000. On top of that Anand had negotiated an extra €100,000 (net) for the fact that he was playing on his opponent's turf. His original demand had been €300,000, but the one hundred grand that he received was nevertheless a most generous bonus, given the fact that, apart from Sofia, there had not been any serious bids for the match.

The €3,000,000 budget for the match was guaranteed by Bulgaria's Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, who got to know Topalov during the MTel Masters when he was still Mayor of Sofia. Borisov's confidence that sufficient sponsors would be found was justified, and in the end the Bulgarian government mainly provided logistical support.

Much was said and written about Topalov's possible home advantage. Or rather about the risk that Anand might run by playing on enemy territory. For Danailov this was difficult to understand. 'We had already organized five MTel Masters and the match against Kamsky. Anand played here three times (in

two MTel Masters and in a blitz match against Topalov on Bulgarian TV in 2004 – DJtG) and I never heard complaints from any player.'

The only moment of friction arose at the start of the match, when Anand's team was stuck in Frankfurt and could not fly to Sofia due to the outburst of the Icelandic volcano whose name we all know by now, even if we cannot spell or pronounce it. Because of their delayed arrival Anand asked for a postponement of several days. Match organizer Danailov insisted they stick to the original dates, pointing at the Champions League, where the rules were strictly adhered to, volcano or no volcano. Even the star-studded team of Barcelona was forced to travel to Italy by coach as the UEFA refused to postpone their match against Inter Milan. As it is well-known that FIDE Vice-president Georgios Makropoulos is a good friend of Danailov's (he started the press conference in which he announced his decision by congratulating the Bulgarian on his 49th birthday), it didn't come as a big surprise when the Greek came up with a compromise: a one-day postponement. This seemed reasonable to most involved, but Danailov stuck to his guns and showing his temper he announced that he'd seek damages for this postponement.

ANASTASIA KARLOVICH / CNC

Boyko Borisov, Prime Minister of eight million Bulgarians, and World Champion Vishy Anand, representative of one billion Indians.

But that was about the only instance of discord Danailov-watchers all over the globe got to see and at the start of the 12th game everyone in the Military Club is thinking about chess. In the playing hall, a richly decorated ballroom from the old days, an army of photographers awaits the players. Anand arrives first and takes a seat on a sofa in the players' resting area that is not visible from the hall. Topalov goes straight for his chair at the board and sits down under an encouraging burst of applause. He adjusts his pieces and turns to the photographers so they can take their shots. When Anand joins him shortly before three p.m., there is more applause. The players exchange a limp handshake, carefully avoiding to look at each other. For the 11th time White's queen's pawn is advanced two squares. Only in Game 11 did we see a different opening move, when Anand went 1.c4. Much will depend on Black's opening choice. Those who had hoped for a sharp fight sigh in disappointment when Anand plays the Lasker manoeuvre in the Queen's Gambit Declined. An excellent choice if you want to frustrate White's winning ambitions. How excellent becomes clear after Black has played his knight to f6 on move 16. Anand accepts a weak isolated pawn on c5, but in return makes sure that his pieces will be active. Topalov may pile up on the c5 pawn and try to win it, but this will allow Anand to develop a most pleasant initiative.

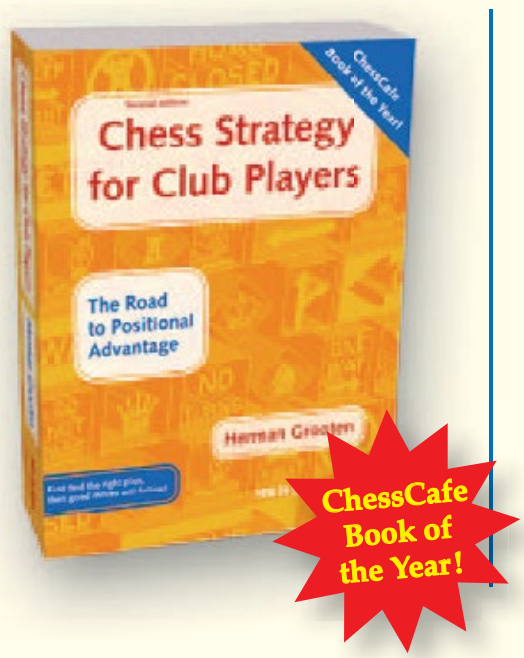
The realization that a tie-break may be imminent and that, in all likelihood, rapid and possibly even blitz games will decide this titanic clash, once again drives home what an emotional roller-coaster this match has been. Topalov's smashing knight sacrifice in Game 1, when Anand forgot his opening preparation and was blown away. The World Champion's immediate answer in Game 2 and his brilliant attack in Game 4 that gave him the lead. Next an incredibly tense phase in which Topalov not only managed to stay afloat, but slowly wrested the initiative from his opponent and ultimately managed to level the score when Anand blundered in an opposite-coloured bishop ending in Game 8. Immediately the next game the Champion got ample chances to deal a big blow, but when he failed to do so he had to be happy that he survived Game 10. And we've barely recovered from the mesmerizing endgame fight in Game 11, when in a position where nothing seemed to be going on Topalov suddenly got chances and Anand hit back with great ingenuity. Instead of the half point that each of them got, they might as well have been awarded one full point each for the gripping endgame show they put up. And now there's only one game left, and the World Champion looks

in clover, if we assume that he'll be the big favourite in the rapid tiebreak.

That tiebreak, and his wish to avoid it, is very much on Topalov's mind. As he explained later: 'If I do better than usual I can make 2-2. And then we move on to blitz. I'm not saying that I am hopeless at blitz, but I am not even trying to improve my skills at rapid and blitz.' He wants to avoid the tiebreak and when, on move 26, he can repeat the position he declines and plays on. His will to fight is laudable, but also questionable. Anand would probably have repeated the position if Topalov had let him, but by now Black's position is so comfortable that he might even have chosen to play on. The game reaches its crisis when Black's bishop has turned into a monster eyeing the white king from a8 and Anand can play 30...f5 to undermine the defences around White's king. Topalov sees that he can support his e4 pawn with 31.♘d2, but he also sees that in that case Black will put his rook on d4 and have such an easy game that White's winning chances would evaporate completely. In an impulse he takes on f5, failing to see the killing black queen retreat to e8 further on that Anand had already spotted when he put his bishop on a8 several moves earlier.

Of course the engines in the press room have also seen the deadly queen move. Anand's fans get excited, while Topalov's fans stare silently at the screens. His seconds Cheparinov, l'Ami and Smeets have come to the Military Club, as they have regularly, and their looks confirm that their boss is in big trouble. For a brief moment their eyes light up when on move 40 Anand makes another king move than expected, but they don't need long to see that the tactical trick that enables White to keep the material balance would lead to a totally lost pawn ending. Shortly after the time-control Anand reaches an endgame in which he has a queen and three pawns, against rook and knight and three pawns for Topalov. No one doubts that the end is near, and for the first time Anand's seconds (Nielsen, Kasimdzhanov, Ganguly and Wojtaszek) leave the Hilton to come over to the Militay Club. They arrive wet from the rain that has just started to pour down seriously, but obviously they don't care. Just like hardly anybody seems to notice the thunderstorm that erupts when Anand and Topalov arrive for the final press conference. The challenger is mostly lost in thought when he is not answering questions. The face of the old and new Champion is all happiness and relief. Everyone believes him when he says: 'This was the most intense match I have ever played.'

The prize-giving takes place two days later, on the day that the tie-break games would have been played. The ceremony is relatively sober. Perhaps it would have been livelier if Topalov had won, but this is denied by several Bulgarians: 'We don't like long speeches, we prefer to keep them short.' One of the speeches is by FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who has come over from Moscow and will fly back immediately to be in the Russian capital when the delegates of the Russian Chess Federation vote whom they will support in the upcoming FIDE elections, him or Karpov. Another brief speech is given by Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov. The PM is gracious in defeat and says that he can live with the fact that the representative of a small country with only eight million inhabitants lost to the representative of a country with one billion inhabitants.



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NOTES BY
Erwin l'Ami

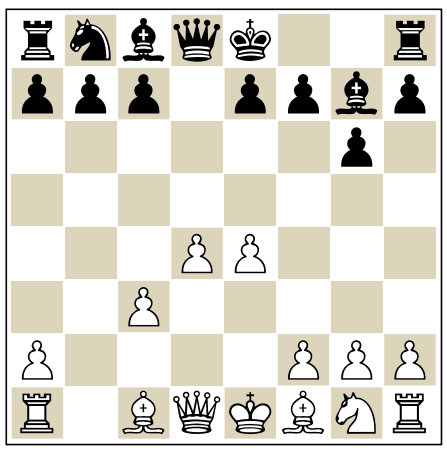
GI 5.7 – D87
Veselin Topalov
Vishy Anand
Sofia 2010 (1)

The first game is of course always a tense affair. Months of preparations culminate into this moment. Would Vishy stick to the Grünfeld, which he used so regularly over the past year? Or was he just hiding his real intentions?

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5

Apparently not!

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7



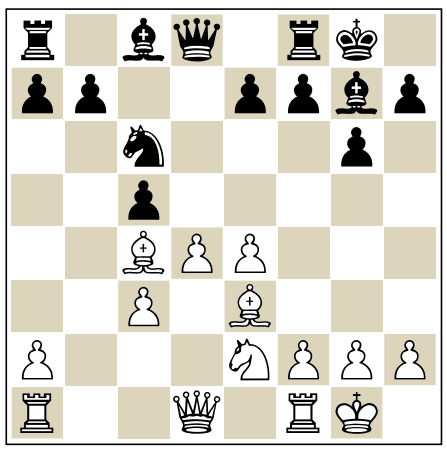
7.♗c4

Re-opening the discussion which was thought to have been closed after the Kamsky match. There Veselin switched from 7.♗c4 (Game 1) to 4.♕b3 (Game 3) before realizing that 1.e4! (Games 5 and 7) refutes the Grünfeld altogether.

7...c5 8.♘e2

Protecting the centre from e2, so that ...♗g4 can be met by f2-f3.

8...♘c6 9.♗e3 0-0 10.0-0



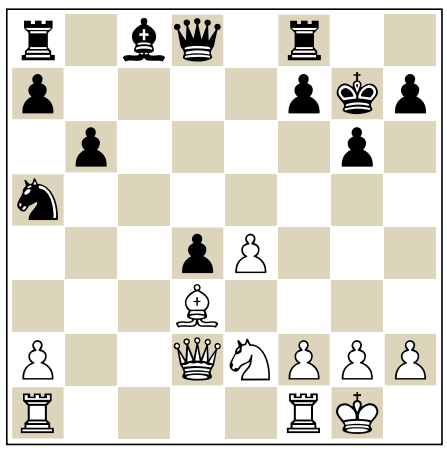
NEW IN CHESS

Towards the end of the games Topalov's seconds Erwin l'Ami, Ivan Cheparinov and Jan Smeets regularly came to the Military Club. If only to get some fresh air on the balcony.

10...♘a5

Two weeks later Vishy opted for 10...b6!?, but instead of 11.dxc5 ♕c7, which gives Black normal compensation, Veselin played the consolidating moves ♕d2, ♖ac1 and ♖fd1 and got a pleasant position.

11.♗d3 b6 12.♕d2 e5 13.♗h6 cxd4 14.♗xg7 ♔xg7 15.cxd4 exd4



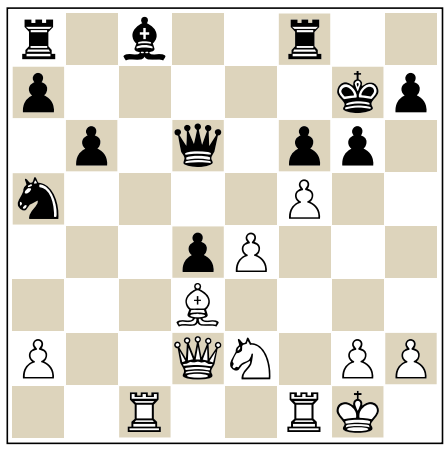
16.♖ac1

We thought this would come as a small surprise, but since Vishy replied more or less instantly this wasn't the case. Against Kamsky, the game continued 16.f4 f6 17. e5 ♗d7!?, and Black was fine because 18.♘xd4 ♘c6 offers White no hopes for an advantage. This reveals one of the points behind White's last move: both ...f6 and ...♗d7 look strange here, and in the meantime White takes the c-file.

16...♕d6!?

A logical novelty. While preparing moves such as ...♘c6 and ...♗d7, the queen also controls the e5-square. 16...♗b7 was played by Carlsen two years ago, but it leaves the black king a bit vulnerable against the upcoming f4-f5.

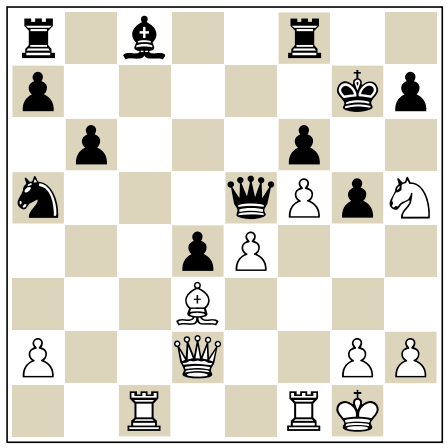
17.f4 f6 18.f5



18...♕e5

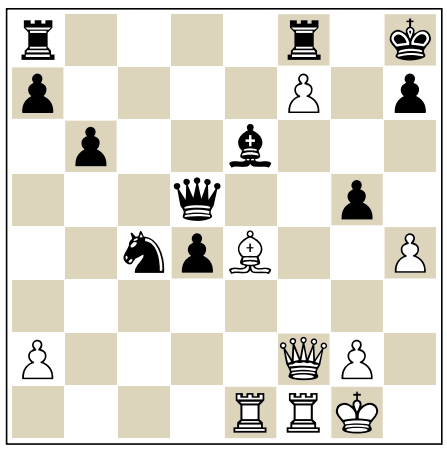
Both players were still blitzing their moves! By now the adrenaline level started to rise rapidly within our camp, since we considered Black's last move to be very risky.

19.♘f4 g5 20.♘h5+



20...♔g8

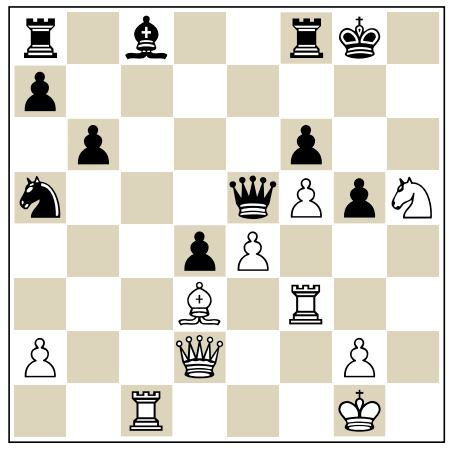
A difficult choice! 20...♔h8 clears g8 for the rook, but may not be better than the text. After 21.h4 ♖g8 White can continue his attack with the brutal 22.♘xf6!? (22.♕e1 also deserves attention, threatening ♘xf6, followed by e5, and if this doesn't work, then hxg5, followed by ♕h4, looks attractive as well) 22...♕xf6 23.e5 ♕xe5 24.f6 ♗e6 (even without queens the black king can be in danger: 24...♕e3+ 25.♕xe3 dxe3 26.♖c7!) 25.f7 ♖gf8 26.♖ce1 ♕d5 (26...♕d6 27.♖f6 wins the piece back with an ongoing attack) 27.♗e4 ♘c4 28.♕f2



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

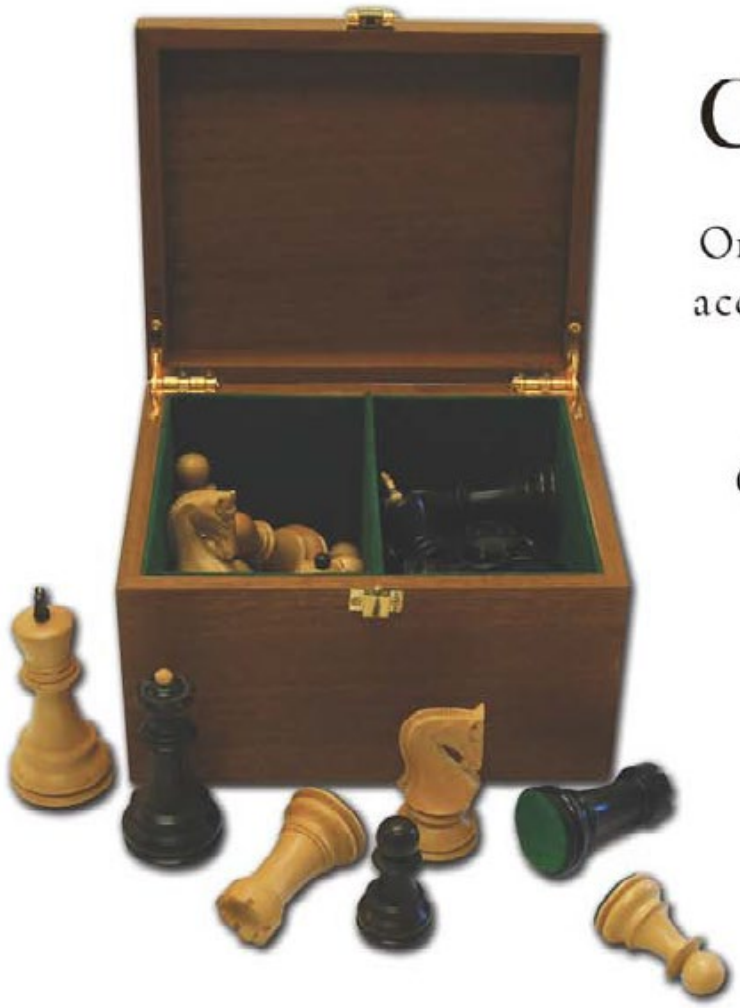
28...♖xf7 (28...♕d8 29.♗d5!! is a nice interference move: 29...♗xd5 gives up control over the d4-square while 29...♕xd5 gives up f6) 29.♗xd5 ♖xf2 30.♗xa8 ♖xf1+ 31.♖xf1! (31.♔xf1 ♘e3+ 32.♔f2 gxh4 33.♖e2 ♔g7 34.♖d2 ♘f5 should be a draw) 31...d3 32.♖f8+ ♔g7 33.♖d8, and although this is a very interesting endgame, I am sure the editor won't be happy if I continue analysing it. In any case it's clearly not pleasant for Black.

21.h4 h6 22.hxg5 hxg5 23.♖f3



23...♔f7?

In various sources I read that Black could have saved his skin with 23...♗d7 24.♖g3 ♖ac8. However, this runs into the powerful 25.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 26.♖e1!, once again preparing e5, while 26...♖c3 27.♖xg5+ ♔f7 28.e5 ♖xd3 29.♕f4!, with e6 to follow, is another important point. A better alternative, now



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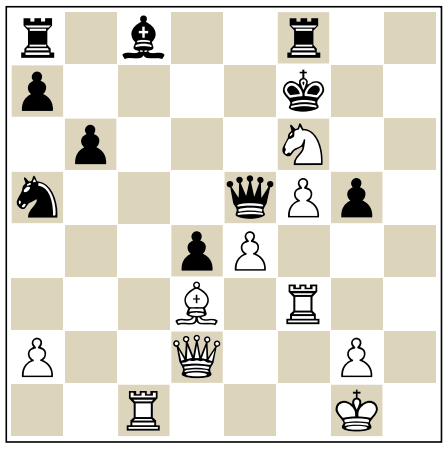
that 23...♗d7 24.♖g3 has been included, is to move the king to f7. After the more or less forced line 24...♔f7 25.♗c4+ ♘xc4 26.♖xc4 ♖h8 27.♖xd4 ♗e8 28.♖d7+ ♔f8 I have been unable to find a win for White, but I wouldn't be surprised if it's there for the taking.

24.♘xf6!



We have entered a new era in chess in which it is possible to win a game by doing your homework, and doing it well. I wonder what thoughts Steinitz and Lasker would have had on all of this?

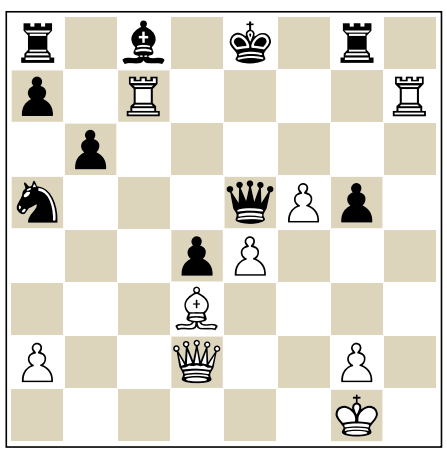
24...♔xf6

Or 24...♕xf6 25.♖h3, and despite the fact that Black has many moves, all of them fall short: 25...♗d7 26.♖h7+ ♔e8 27.e5!, 25...♔e8 26.e5!, 25...♔g8 26.♖h5!, 25...♗b7 26.e5! ♕xe5 27.♖h7+ ♔f6 28.♖e1.

25.♖h3 ♖g8

25...♕f4 26.e5+! clears the road to Black's king: 26...♔xe5 27.♕e2+ ♔d5 28.♖f1, winning major material.

26.♖h6+ ♔f7 27.♖h7+ ♔e8 28.♖cc7



A remarkable picture!

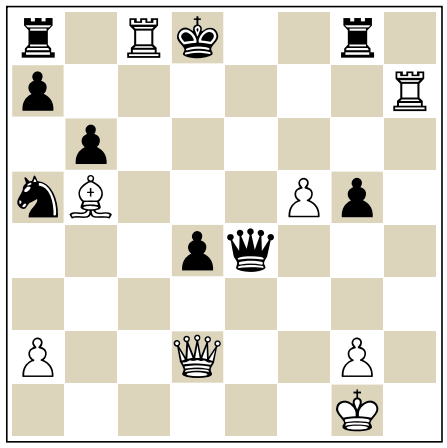
28...♔d8 29.♗b5!

Finishing the game in style! The bishop cannot be taken and at the same time ...♕xc7 is prevented.

29...♕xe4

29...a6 30.♖ce7! ♕c5 loses elegantly to – amongst others – 31.♕xg5!.

30.♖xc8+



Black resigned, he is a piece down after 30...♔xc8 31.♕c1+ ♘c6 32.♗xc6 ♕e3+ 33.♕xe3 dxe3 34.♗xa8. Obviously, after this first game spirits were high in our team. What could possibly go wrong now?

NOTES BY

Jan Timman

CA 3.3 – E04
Vishy Anand
Veselin Topalov
Sofia 2010 (2)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3

Something of a surprise. In his early years, Anand used to swear by 1.e4, but in time he expanded his repertoire as White. In last year's Tal Memorial in Moscow, for example, he played 1.d4 exclusively. In his world championship match against Kramnik in Bonn in 2008, Anand opened with the d-pawn in the first five games. Only in Round 11, when a draw would suffice for keeping his title, did he fall back on his old love and play 1.e4. In Wijk aan Zee earlier this year, he alternated the opening moves.

In view of all this, his choice in this, his first game as White was not surprising. Yet there is something strange: in his games against Topalov he had never opened with the d-pawn. Apart from a rapid game in Monaco in 1999 and a blindfold game a year later in which Anand went for 1.♘f3, he had always fought Topalov with 1.e4, usually followed by a sharp Sicilian.

3...d5

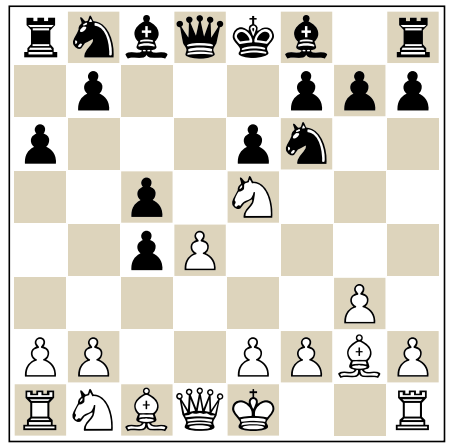
Topalov undoubtedly expected Anand's normal move 4.♘c3 now, after which he would probably have gone for the Vienna or the Ragozin.

4.g3 In Kramnik's footsteps.

4...dxc4 5.♗g2 a6

A fairly common line. Anand must also have prepared for 5...♗b4+ 6.♗d2 a5, as would happen in Game 4.

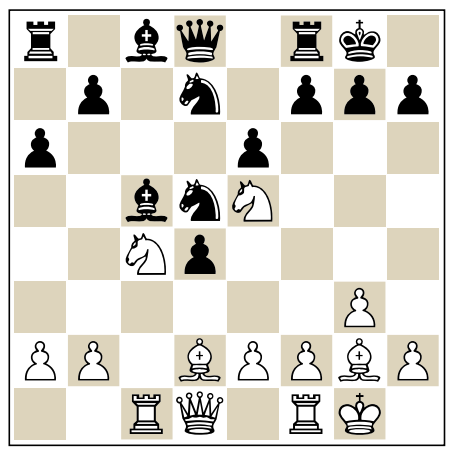
6.♘e5 c5



7.♘a3

The alternative is 7.♗e3. The text boils down to a long-term pawn sacrifice.

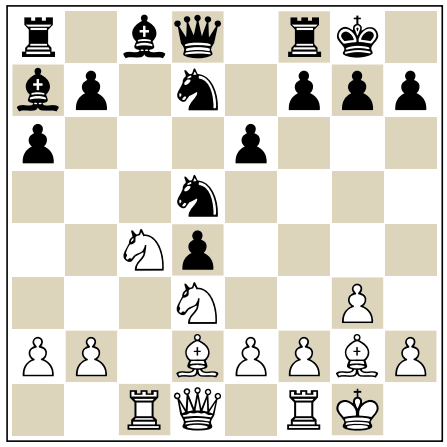
7...cxd4 8.♘axc4 ♗c5 9.0-0 0-0 10.♗d2 ♘d5 11.♖c1 ♘d7



12.♘d3

White avoids a piece swap and increases the pressure on the enemy position, playing, as it were, around the black d-pawn. White clearly has ample compensation for the pawn, but it is difficult to show an advantage, since the black position has no weaknesses.

12...♗a7

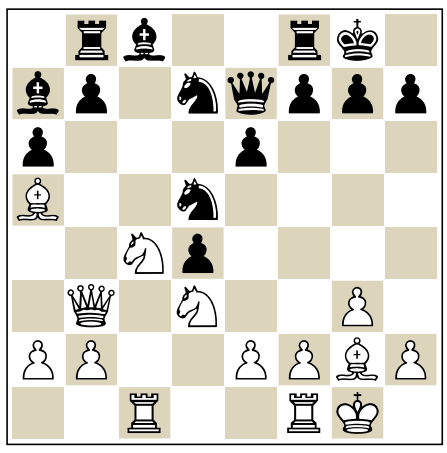


13.♗a5

On *ChessBase* Giri calls this bishop sortie 'a questionable decision', suggesting the immediate 13.♕b3 to reinforce the white play. But then Black can play 13...♘c5. By forcing the strongly positioned white knight to swap, Black eases the pressure on his position.

13...♕e7 14.♕b3 Now White will be able to meet 14...♘c5 with 15.♘xc5 ♗xc5 16.♘b6, after which the black position will find itself under severe pressure.

14...♖b8



15.♕a3

This invitation to a queen swap led to a deluge of comments, some of them extremely negative. Nigel Short observed:

'I am speechless. 15.♕a3 is a shockingly bad move. White has no winning chances at all after this. Black wasn't threatening anything, so why exchange off the queens, ruin your pawn formation and make things easy for Black all at one go? And this dubious decision came quite early in the game.'

I must say I certainly don't regard this move as bad, even though it would not have been in my top-three (and perhaps Anand thought the same; he had, after all, taken enough time over it).

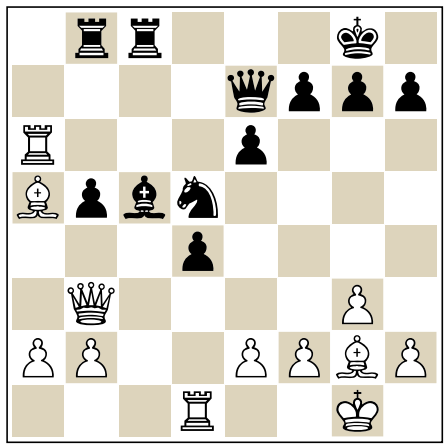
Apart from the objective value of the queen move, it did give me the feeling that Anand had not quite found his feet in the match yet. But the rest of the game shows that I was mistaken.

The text, by the way, fits in a tradition mentioned by Rowson in New In Chess 2010/1: offering a queen swap that damages one's own pawn structure, because you voluntarily accept a doubled pawn. Normally, however, this transaction yields the player other strategic advantages.

In my opinion, the doubled a-pawns are no disadvantage to White because Black cannot target them. Pein, in *The Week In Chess*, points out that square c3 might become weak, but as long as White keeps his queen's bishop, this potential weakness hardly counts for anything.

The text is insufficient for an advantage, but the question remains whether the alternatives would have made much difference. In Gulko-Shulman, Tulsa 2008, there followed 15.♘ce5 ♘xe5 16.♘xe5 ♕f6 17.♘d3 b6 18.♗b4 ♖d8, with good play for Black. Swapping knights is not a good idea for White in principle, because it will relieve the pressure on the black position.

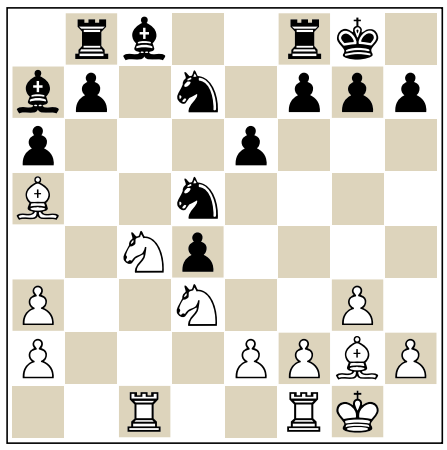
Giri regards 15.♖fd1 as White's best bet, giving the variation 15...b6 16.♗b4 ♘c5 17.♕a3 ♗b7 18.♗xd5! ♗xd5 19.♘xb6 ♗xb6 20.♖xc5 ♗xc5 21.♗xc5 ♕b7 22.♗xf8 ♖xf8 23.♕b4, with advantage for White. But it seems to me that Black would have a good reply in 15...b5 (instead of 15...b6). After 16.♘ce5 ♗b7 17.♘c6 ♗xc6 18.♖xc6 ♖fc8 19.♖xa6 ♘c5 20.♘xc5 ♗xc5 a well-known type of position arises that is, on the whole, slightly better for White.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

But the rook on a6 is a problem. After 21.♗d2 ♕b7 22.♖a5 ♕b6, for example, Black would have the threat of 23...♘c3.

15...♕xa3 16.bxa3



16...♘7f6

Stronger was 16...♘c5. As I said before, swapping the knights would ease the pressure on the black position. After 17.♘d6 ♘xd3 18.exd3 b6 19.♗d2 ♗b7 20.♘xb7 ♖xb7 21.♖c4 White has sufficient compensation for the pawn. Topalov had probably thought better of 16...♘c5 because, wanting to play for a win, he was anxious to keep as many pieces on the board as possible.

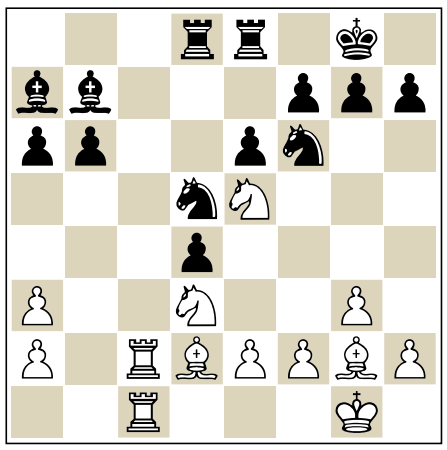
17.♘ce5

Increasing the pressure on the black position.

17...♖e8 18.♖c2 b6

Giri prefers 18...♗d7 here, assessing the position after 19.♘xd7 ♘xd7 20.♖fc1 ♘7f6 21.♘e5 as roughly equal. But I don't think there's anything wrong with the text. The position remains balanced.

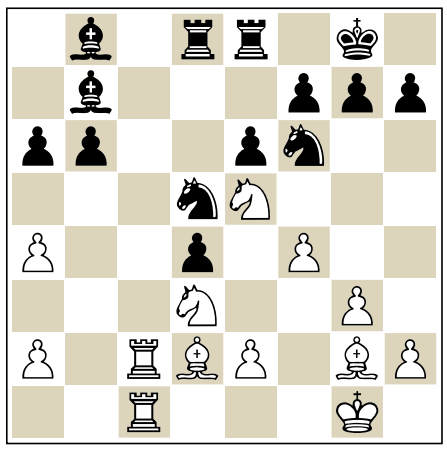
19.♗d2 ♗b7 20.♖fc1 ♖bd8



21.f4

A remarkable move. White also vacates square e3 for the centralized black knight, continuing to rely on his queen's pawn to control the square. Control in the centre is important: Anand intends to take his knight to c6 in order to secure the bishop pair. After that transaction he will have to prevent Black from advancing his central pawns.

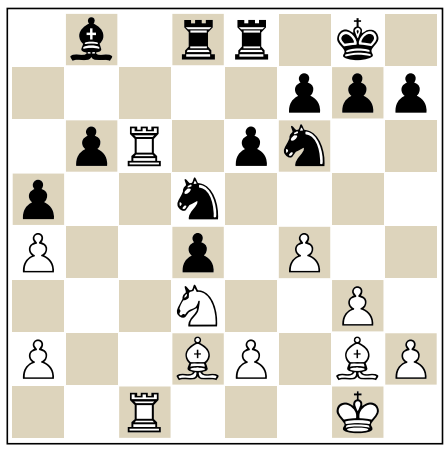
21...♗b8 22.a4



22...a5

Not bad. But Black had a simple plan here to get a comfortable position with 22...♗xe5. It is strategically justified to swap the king's bishop: it will alleviate the pressure, and because of the half-open character of the position the bishop pair will carry little weight. After 23.♘xe5 (23.fxe5 ♘g4 is less good) 23...♘d7 24.♘xd7 ♖xd7 25.♖c4! White will just manage to keep the position equal.

23.♘c6 ♗xc6 24.♖xc6

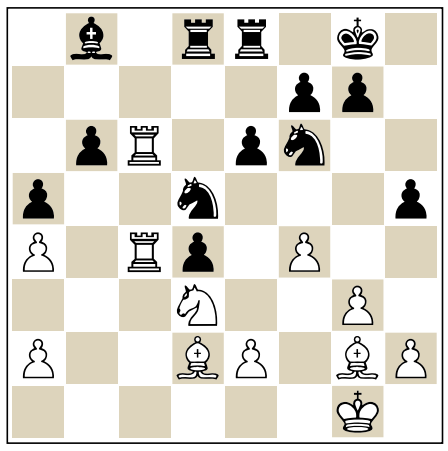


24...h5

Excellent play. Black improves his kingside pawn structure. If he likes, he can push the pawn further, while a knight sortie to g4 will also gain in strength.

25.♖1c4

Inaccurate. The prophylactic 25.♗f3 was correct. This prevents the knight sortie to g4, as he will be able to meet 25...♘g4 with 26.h3. This means that Black will play something like 25...g6, after which White will be able to go 26.♖1c4 after all. White keeps control of the position.



25...♘e3?

A serious error. It seems as if Topalov was too ambitious and too eager to prove that he could bend the position to his will. And it seems to me that a psychological factor also plays a part here. Before the match, Topalov had announced that he would, for his part, stick to the Sofia rules, in the sense that he would avoid offering draws. This self-imposed restriction has the drawback that,

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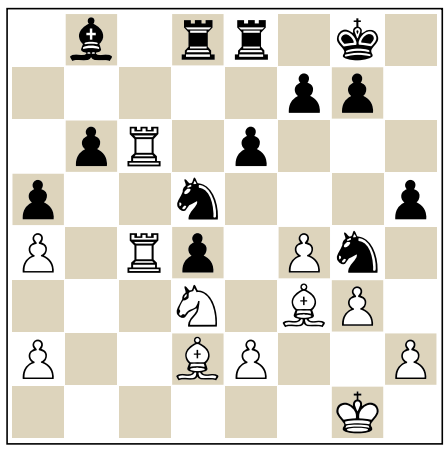
Journalists from all over the world attended the match, for example (in front row) Georgios Souleidis (Germany) and (behind him) Yury Vasiliev (Russia), Leontxo Garcia (Spain), Carlos Ilardo (Argentina) and Angel Martin (Spain).

unconsciously, you keep trying to keep the position alive, even when there is no objective reason to do so.

Correct was 25...♘g4!, with the point that 26.♖xd4 is not really possible in view of 26...♗a7, with the unpleasant threat of 27...b5. White's best move is 26.♗f3, after which Black has the following possibilities:

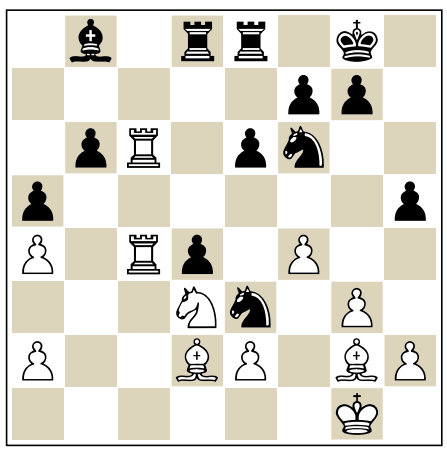


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 26...g6. This leads to the position I indicated in my comment to White's 25th move. Now White can play 27.♖xd4 after all, since the complications after 27...♗a7 28.♔h1 b5 29.♖xd5! are not unfavourable for White.

B) 26...e5. After this, Giri indicates 27.fxe5 ♘xe5 28.♘xe5 ♗xe5 29.♔f1, 'with roughly equal chances'. In this line it is important to meet 29...d3 with 30.e4, not 30.exd3 in view of 30...♘e7, and White is in trouble.

C) 26...♗a7. Giri calls this move 'unhuman', yet it seems to me that Karpov would have liked to play it, and I would have had no trouble playing it myself. This bishop move is, in fact, a prophylaxis in the pure Nimzowitschian sense: Black covers the b-pawn and, indirectly, the d-pawn as well. White's best reply is probably 27.♗c1 in order to possibly take the bishop to b2, when after 27...g6 Black keeps the slightly better chances.



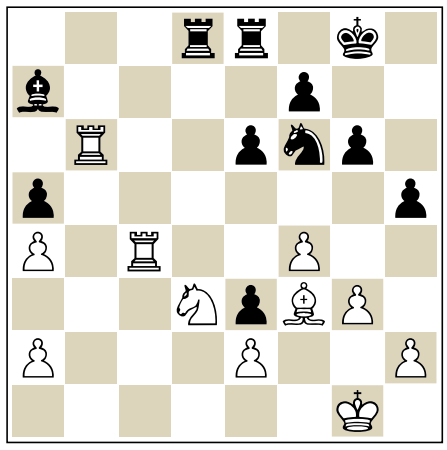
26.♗xe3 dxe3 27.♗f3

This key move is what Topalov must have underestimated. The exchange sacrifice on d3 is removed from the position, and square g2 is vacated for the white king.

27...g6

This does not fit with the previous moves, but whatever he does, Black is bound to end up in an unpleasant position, e.g. 27...h4 28.♖xb6 hxg3 29.hxg3 e5 30.fxe5 ♘d7 31.♖b5 ♘xe5 32.♘xe5 ♖xe5 33.♔g2, with a large advantage for White.

28.♖xb6 ♗a7



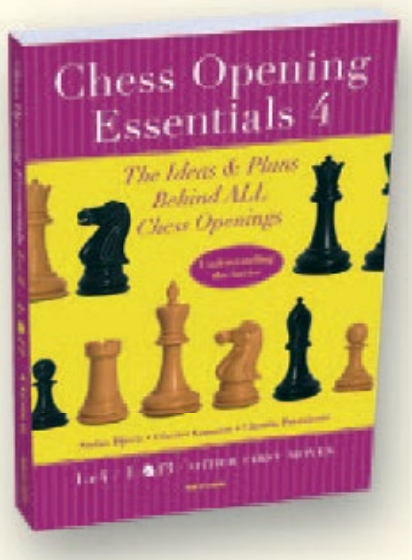
29.♖b3

Anand wants to keep his well-positioned knight. After 29.♖b7 ♖xd3 30.♖xa7 ♖d2 31.♖xa5 ♖xa2 32.♖a7 ♘d5 White's winning chances would be in doubt.

29...♖d4

A slightly better defence was 29...♖e7, in order to protect the seventh rank.

30.♖c7 ♗b8 31.♖c5



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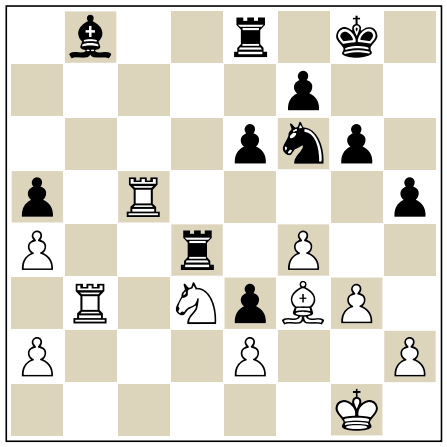
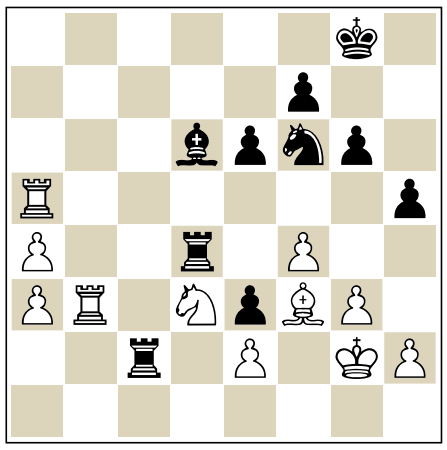


Winning the a-pawn. Now the game moves into the technical stage.

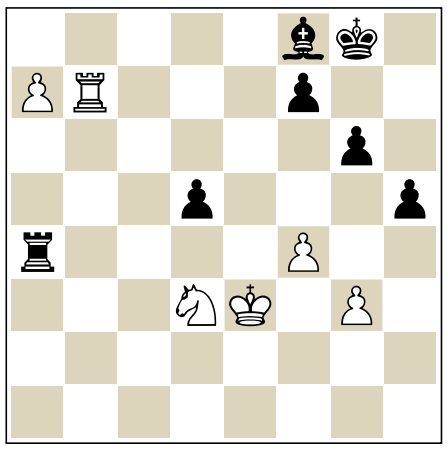
31...♗d6 32.♖xa5 ♖c8 33.♔g2 ♖c2 34.a3

Coolly played. Despite all the active moves he has played, Black has failed to create a threat.



34...♖a2

Probably based on a calculating error. Black's best chance was 34...♘d5. *ChessVibes* now gives the following interesting line: 35.♗xd5 ♖xe2+ 36.♔f3 ♖xh2 37.♔xe3 ♖xd5 38.♖xd5 exd5 39.a5 ♖a2 40.a6 ♗xa3 41.a7 ♗f8! 42.♖b7 ♖a4, with the conclusion 'with some drawing chances'.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

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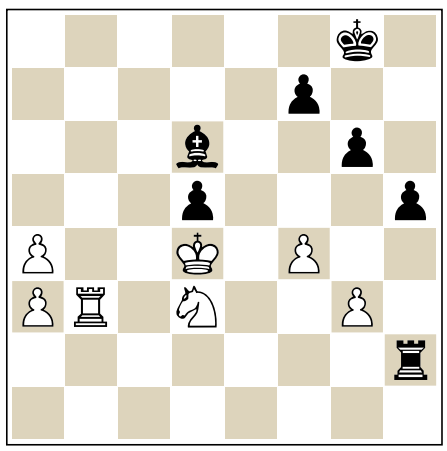
If you think this photo is a bit greyish, you are right. This is what the spectators saw once the curtain, which blocked the players' view of the hall, was drawn after the first five minutes.

In my opinion, this position is simply drawn, the problem being that the white king cannot penetrate, which makes it virtually impossible to make progress.

But White has better, viz. 39.♔d4! (instead of 39.a5). It is important for the king to participate at once to help the a-pawn queen. White is winning, as witness the following variations:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 39...♖a2 40.♘b4! ♗xb4 (of 40...♖d2+ 41.♖d3) 41.axb4 ♖xa4 42.♔xd5, and the rook ending is an easy win for White;

B) 39...h4 40.gxh4 ♖xh4 41.a5 ♗xf4 42.♘xf4 ♖xf4+ 43.♔c5!, and the endgame is hopeless for Black. This endgame has a study-like feel, with dominance of the black pieces as its main theme.

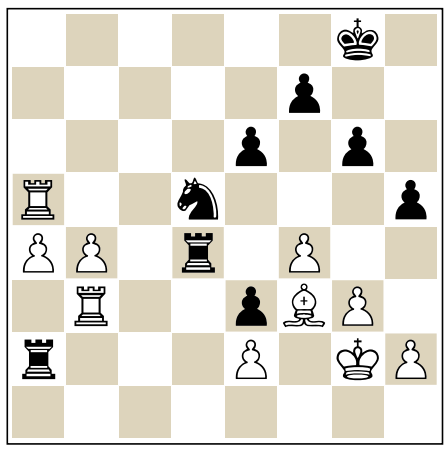
35.♘b4

Now Black's previous move turns out to have been a shot in the dark, as he cannot take on a3 in view of White's intermediate check on a8.

35...♗xb4

This was not the idea, of course. The harmless doubled a-pawn is now going to play a decisive part.

36.axb4 ♘d5



37.b5

The simplest way to the win. Topalov might as well have resigned here.

37...♖axa4 38.♖xa4 ♖xa4 39.♗xd5 exd5 40.b6 ♖a8 41.b7 ♖b8 42.♔f3 d4 43.♔e4

Black resigned.

Vishy Anand:

'Every game had lots of unexpected twists and for this you've got to give him full credit.'

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam

Happiness is an unbeatable energizer. The day after he has successfully defended his world title, Vishy Anand acts sprightly and is in high spirits. Nothing betrays that he's only slept five hours when he sits down in one of the rooms on the 9th floor of the Sofia Hilton, the home of him and his team for the past few weeks. During the match he went to sleep at 1 a.m. and got up at 10. Last night they celebrated till three, but at eight this morning duty called again. He doesn't mind. 'It's pleasant and you know you're going to enjoy the result for a while afterwards.' And what about the support he got from the super-troika Kasparov-Carlsen-Kramnik? 'I thought it was pretty historic and I was happy I was in the story.'

– Being stranded in Frankfurt because of an Icelandic volcano and a 48-hour car ride to Sofia must feel like ages ago?

'(Deep sigh) Maybe it was a forewarning of how difficult this match was going to be. It came out of the blue. On the 15th (of April) we flew from Madrid to Frankfurt. Surya (Ganguly) was going to join us, Rustam (Kasimdzhanov) was coming from Bonn, and we were all going to fly here together. On the night of the 15th we pre-checked our luggage in and there was no inkling whatsoever that there were going to be any problems the next day. That evening PH (Nielsen) called and said that he might not be coming because the Danish airspace was closed, and that he was looking at alternatives. And I thought, ah, poor guy. And then the next morning we suddenly found out our flight was gone. And Eric (van Reem) was very smart. He said, before the general chaos starts, let's go to the airport, cancel your flight, take your luggage and come back. The next day we drove to Bulgaria by van, via Austria, Hungary and Romania. Because there were some non-EU guys, we could not go via Serbia, we'd have to apply for visas. So we had to come by a much longer route, maybe a couple of hundred kilometres more. It was 40 hours in total, including 10 hours in Budapest, where we stayed overnight. But it was going to be 40 hours one way or the other, so we

A happy couple. World Champion Vishy Anand and his wife and manager Aruna.

RYBKA 4

For years Rybka has been the uncontested number one in computer chess and since its great breakthrough in 2006 the program has been winning with remarkable regularity one world championship title after another. So that there is no change to that state of affairs in the future, the Rybka team around programmer Vasik Rajlich has developed a new version, which is even better.

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As was the case for the previous version, there is also a specially developed openings book for Rybka 4 and Deep Rybka 4. Unlike many other openings books in the realm of computer chess, the primary goal is not an increase in playing strength but an objective representation of all openings. The author of the Rybka 4 book, Jiri Dufek, has created with the help of a special cluster method a new sort of openings book that goes far beyond all those published so far both in range and in accuracy.

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System requirements: Minimum: Pentium III 1 GHz, 1 GB RAM, Windows Vista, XP (Service Pack 3), DirectX9 graphics card with 256 MB RAM, DVD-ROM drive, Windows-Media Player 9, internet access (playchess.com, updates and activation).
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decided we'd have fun and watched the entire *Lord of the Rings*. Actually we didn't finish the film in the bus, we had about 20 minutes left to go. We finally watched it on the big screen here. The next day. We had to watch the end of the movie and then start.'

– *How upsetting was this unusual start of a World Championship match?*

'It wasn't, except that we felt, given that we were going to arrive four days later than planned, that it wasn't unreasonable to ask for an extra day. When we finally got here, we got the postponement and we thought it was reasonable. Ideally, you come to these events a week before to get ready, but four days is not a disaster. Three days would have been tight, I think, but four days we thought we could live with. I mean, I certainly don't blame the trip for the first game. That was just nerves, it can happen when you've been there for a week or a month.'

– *But still it happens. You sit down and essentially lose the game in one move.*

'I remember that Rustam had looked at this position carefully. I checked it and I remembered King f7 as the key defensive move, but of course it's just a move later. I first had to play Bishop d7 and then King f7.'

– *Did it rock your self-confidence?*

'It doesn't help, but on the other hand I understood that with Topalov there would be a lot of chances. Because he basically announced that he was going to play every game and take no draws. So you understood that there was no reason to be concerned for lack of opportunities. It did mean of course, that if something would go wrong it would go horribly wrong, but it never went like that in this match. Somehow neither of us got to dominate.'

– *The speed with which you fought your way back into the match may even have surprised yourself.*

'Yeah, but I think the second game was a bonus. To recover that fast was nice. I thought, now I am going to sit, put pressure on every game and then right afterwards I won the second game. And then it appeared that we had guessed his match strategy wrong. We thought he was going to be very hit and run. Like he was against Kamsky. We'd based our preparation on that. But even after two losses he kept playing the Catalan and he kept playing this endgame over and over. This was not what we'd expected. In Game 7 he was obviously able to put a lot of pressure on me with this good idea. Game 8 is a long story with this bishop ending. I saw the right fortress. In opposite-coloured bishop endings you have to visualize what you are going to end up with rather than just make move to move. You can't calculate. So I am trying to find a fortress and keep on thinking and then I played ♔g8, thinking he has to go back anyway ♔g5. Then suddenly I remembered that several moves ago I had rejected exactly this same position because I had seen Bishop g7. This time I forgot about it.

'Well, OK, clearly if you put pressure upon your opponent, fatigue is going to play a role, you can't say it's just unlucky. But this was a painful loss, because I understood that I'd almost saved it.

'And then it wouldn't have mattered if I'd won Game 9, but to blow both 8 and 9 is a very unpleasant situation. It was very important for me to save Game 10, which went spectacularly wrong, because I equalized easily and then got into trouble again. We get to this endgame and I assume that I didn't defend it very well, at least in the first stages. But then I got sick somehow. Every time I take some time I make some ridiculous blunder or inaccuracy. I just should stop thinking, so I blitzed the next 10 or 12 moves out. And doing this my position improved so much. This was certainly morale boosting. It seems like a small thing, but somehow if you draw a tough position easily that gives you some morale.

'Every time I play a world championship match, the financial world goes into meltdown.'

'Once I held that game, Game 11 was still a test, but already you know that it's the end of the match and nerves are going to be the main thing. In Game 11 I even briefly got excited when I went 60.g6, because I thought Rook c3-c5 mates, but in fact it draws quite comfortably once you see the right idea.

And then yesterday...'

– *In the phase when he had leveled the score there was this feeling that Topalov's strategy was working. People started to watch you more closely to see if you were getting tired.*

'I realized that I was making a lot of mistakes, and the trend of the match had turned. That's the worrying thing in matches always, when the trend turns. The trend turned for me in Game 2 already and actually kept going for a few games, but then 6 went both ways and in 7 there was a transition. But I noticed that even in 7 I came very close to winning, though I'd started out defending. He had hit me with the opening idea, and he made an easy draw, but I almost pressed him in the end. Game 8 I blundered and then

Game 9... So even if the trend wasn't overwhelmingly in his direction...'

– *Still you must have felt that the neutral observers were putting their money on him more and more.*

'Fair enough, I was not concerned at all. In general during matches I don't read anything from the outside world, except that during a match the world seems to be in a financial crisis again. Every time I play a world championship match, the financial world goes into meltdown. Last time it was subprime mortgages, this time it's Greece. But I don't read chess news. I shut myself off, and in that sense it didn't matter what people were saying.'

– *You successfully played the Catalan, which soon gave people the idea that you were Kramnik in disguise. Was this your strategy, to be more Kramnik-like?*

'It looks like I just cloned Vlady, but I would say that it comes down to structures. In the Slav complex he could go 6.♘e5, which he did three times, but there are many other options as well. In the Catalan games he could also have played many other openings. I definitely tried to learn from Vlady's strategy, because I thought it was very effective. But in the Kramnik match Topalov switched to the Slav, so I was really surprised this time that he never moved. In that sense he actually caught us off-guard. That was also why our black openings started to run very thin very fast. Whereas in the end I was forced to start moving around a lot. Yesterday I was actually comfortable for the first time with black and this paid off immediately.'

– *Were you in touch with Kramnik?*

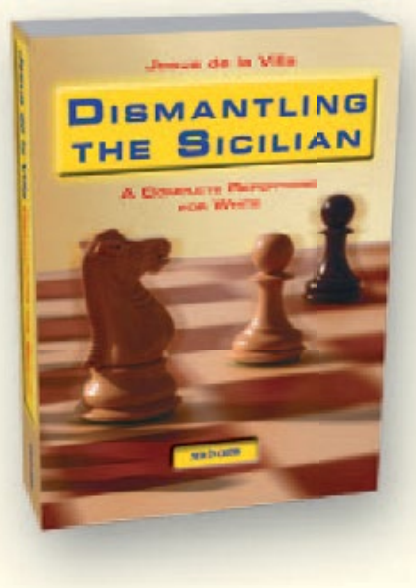
'(Hesitates) A little bit yes. During the match he was actually a great source of support. But not before the match. We were in touch on Skype, he was a great source of support.'

– *It's known that you get on well with Magnus Carlsen. Did you communicate with him in any manner?*

'Yeah, I mean, with Maggie... but we're always in touch anyway. Also PH and he skype every day. And I am not going to say that we never asked him a question (with a telling look). Actually it's nice. A lot of top players were in touch. But it's also that they've been friends for years. It's not that they were useful in this way or that way, they are friends. They sent you a Skype message in the morning saying, good luck. You feel good, and it's definitely something you appreciate. (Thinks) But Vlady was very sweet, he really gave us a lot of support.'

– *Were there other names amongst those friends that might surprise us?*

'I got some help from the people at Hiarcs, they gave me access to some hardware. This was very useful, to compensate a little bit for Topalov's computer. We didn't have official confirmation from them, but we knew they had some big thing going. And apart from Vlady and Magnus there were Garry (Kasparov) and Anish Giri. Vlady got in touch sometime during the match, Magnus and I did some sparring before the match and he was briefly in touch during the match also. Anish came over to do some sparring, in Germany after the main training camp, shortly before the match. Not all the Dutchmen were on Veselin's team (laughs). With Garry I spoke a couple of times before the match and he was also in touch during the match. The contact came about through Frederic (Friedel). He asked if I was interested and I said, Are you crazy? Of course I am interested. And we went from there. From Garry I got a lot of input. I told him roughly what I was planning to play and he had some tips here and there. Also psychological-



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ly speaking he gave me his impressions of Topalov's recent games, his impressions on my recent games, things like that. Just nice stuff. And also when you hear from Garry it's nice.'

– *You've never been that close to Kasparov. Why do you think he did this?*

'I don't know. It's not for me to speculate, but I was grateful. There may have been a historical precedent that I am not aware of, but I thought I was a pretty lucky guy. I mean, I have Magnus, Garry and then Vlady gets in touch after Game 4. I felt very good.'

– *I can also imagine that it feels almost embarrassing to have such a strong group of people behind you. What was your general thought: all is fair in love and war?*

'Sure, I mean, Topalov isn't running his help past me, it shouldn't be the other way either. There's nothing unfair in it, but I was extremely grateful. None of them had to do this, so I appreciated it. I just felt quite fortunate. In fact I thought, if I lose this match I am really gonna kick myself. This is gonna be ridiculous.'

– *That's what I can imagine. If you lose with these people behind you...*

'Yeah, but in the end it's your moves that decide everything. You can't really get away from that, both in the good sense and in the bad sense. But these guys did wonders for my morale. What can you say? It's difficult to put into words.'

– *I can imagine that you felt grateful, but were there also moments when you felt uncomfortable about this? You have two former rivals and one player who is a future rival? Does that play a role?*

'Now, come on. I thought that one day this is the memory I will treasure. That for a week, for this match, I had these three guys, also on a level of friendship. It's not just what novelties I get out of them or what tips I get from them. Simply that guys you have competed with for so long suddenly call you and want to help you. I am not going to measure the help they gave in terms of this or that, it just makes you feel good and I thought that that was even the nicest thing. I thought it was pretty historic and I was happy I was in the story.'

– *And you didn't mind that their motivation might be partly to thwart your opponent rather than helping you?*

'You're free to have that interpretation. I just thought, great, some very nice things are happening to me and I am just going to enjoy it. I just enjoyed watching this thing unfold, it's kind of exciting.'

– *Part of Topalov's strategy was playing on in any position. I guess that generally speaking that was fine with you, but at times it must have been annoying as well.*

'No, not really. I was fine with that. Let's face it, this match was more intense, so I assume the chess fans enjoyed it more. Definitely every game had lots of unexpected twists, and for this you've got to give him full credit. He definitely plays his part in making it very exciting, I have no complaints about that. It's just that at some point to be offered a draw through the arbiter, you find a bit bizarre. When the position is a draw and you have rook and four versus rook and four on the same side, to call the arbiter and tell him I'd like to offer my opponent a draw, is kind of bizarre. But after Game 3 you accept it and move on. I don't think Topalov did anything incorrect in his behaviour at the board or anything, but a couple of times when we got to a dead position I said, do you want to stop? I said it in Spanish, paramos? (Laughs) And he said, OK. It certainly made it more intense,

'I mean, I have Magnus, Garry and then Vlady gets in touch after Game 4. I felt very good.'

but other matches are exciting also. If you want to make chess more popular, this will only be one of the strategies, there will have to be others. It's not like this is the only way to popularize chess.'

– *For the last game most people expected a long struggle in which you would at best draw. But suddenly you were winning. That must have been an overwhelming feeling that comes very close to extreme nervousness.*

'You go nuts. You go completely nuts. And then you start telling yourself, no, no, no, stop thinking about winning, you still have to play some moves. I mean, it hurt to blow the 9th game, can you imagine how it would feel to blow the 12th? Imagine that if I had drawn this, I think in the tie-breaks he would have been the hot favourite then. Somehow I had to nail this one, and luckily I managed. In fact, it turned out that I played extremely well, though I had the feeling that I had missed five easy wins. Luckily we got to move 40, this was helpful. And once I saw I could get his queen off, I thought, I'll get his queen off. Maybe there's some other forced win, but I am not going to look for it. And then afterwards this zugzwang is really nice.'

– *The security measures at the venue were extremely strict.*

'These are not even regulations that we specifically asked for. They are simply part of the new FIDE

regulations for the match. That's precisely my point. You don't make it personal. If you have these anti-cheating regulations it doesn't mean that you're accusing your opponent of cheating. It's like mobile phones. Let's not discuss who sms-ed you what, you don't have them on during the game. The screen was there in Bonn. Everything there was in Bonn was simply applied here. This whole cheating thing is unpleasant, and when you put a lot of people in a tense situation, I think it's better to have strict rules, so that suspicion doesn't come up. We don't need this unpleasantness. But I didn't ask for any of this.'

– *Everyone knows that all these measures were taken in the wake of Elista and San Luis, where there were these allegations of...*

'But I think they should have come even before. Mobile phones weren't even banned till 2001. I mean, we all knew that electronic cheating is going to become an issue or at least the suspicion of it. So you need to take measures, and if you take measures to ensure that the players don't get into unpleasant messes, then it makes life easier.'

– *Wherever I was following the live broadcasts on the Internet and reading the comments, people kept making allusions about Topalov and Danailov cheating. As you said yesterday, this was a very even match, nobody would have been surprised if he had won. Isn't it time for the public to put these ideas out of their heads and to maybe think that he won San Luis correctly?*

'I don't know. I didn't feel worried about this aspect. I think you have these rules more for being above suspicion than anything else. I personally respect Topalov's play a lot. He always fights hard. I think he makes a lot of mistakes, but he generally tries hard at the board. All his games go back and forth, but he is really tenacious. I knew that it would be a hard match against Veselin, simply because he fights very hard. Even in games that he makes some strange blunders in here and there, he will just start again. So I had to match him on that. If something unexpected happened, and a couple of times it did happen, you just have to get back and forget about what went before.'

– *The next time you will have to defend your title is most likely in 2012. Before that time the chess world may see big changes. Right now, we are warming up for the FIDE presidential elections and some leading players have been expressing what they hope will happen. Do you take a stand there?*

'How shall I put it? Since I've been World Champion, maybe that is simply the feeling that you have as World Champion... that things are really going well. At least I feel that the stability in the chess world is becoming more obvious. But there's always a lag. In 2006 we already had one champion, but even after Mexico people were asking me about two titles and three titles and all that. And I am telling them, no, no, that's gone. These days I have the feeling that this has simply happened. So finally there is one cycle, everyone is playing and in fact this year we are going to have a very good, very tough Candidates cycle...'

– *Next year...*

'Well, some time. This is the cream that the chess world has to offer. In that sense it's very important for the sport to get into a very presentable state. FIDE is a big organization. It's a bit much to get into this discussion again about how FIDE deals with amateurs and professionals, because we're all part of the same chess world in a way, but again the interests are very different, and so on. But as long as FIDE goes into a constructive direction in the next two years, that's fine.'

– *Under whichever leadership.*

'Well, I don't want to go into that.'

– *That's what I mean, do you want to take a neutral stand?*

'To be honest, for the past three months I have not been following the developments. I know Karpov is running, but beyond that I don't know what is really going on. At the very least I'd like to hear a little bit more about what they have to say before taking a stand.'

– *But it's not very likely that you will make a clear statement in favour of one of the candidates?*

'Chances that I make a clear statement without having a clear idea what their platform is, are zero. Do I sound like Hacker?'

– *So, with Hacker we're finally back to Yes, Prime Minister. What did the entertainment consist of this time? What series did you bring?*

'We had *Doctor House*, and some old ones. Some *Yes, Prime Minister* and some *Fawlty Towers*. After Game 8 I had to watch *The Kipper and the Corpse* (laughs).'

– *People who have been through tough and stressful situations often have the wish to get drunk once everything is over. As you barely drink, that will not have been your wish yesterday.*

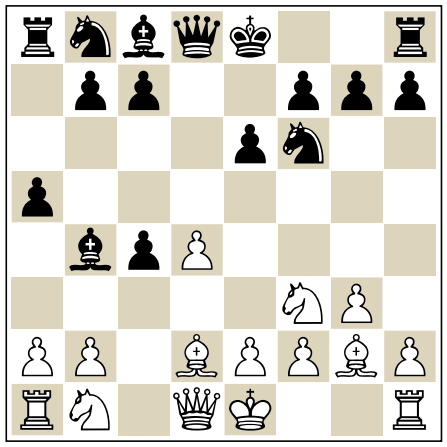
'I managed a small amount of champagne, though many Russians have told me that that's not alcohol. For me the equivalent of getting drunk is not looking at chess for a while and just relaxing a bit, spending, I hope, a couple of weeks doing other things, other hobbies instead of chess. It's been quite intense with the chess and all the training and so on, so you need some time to let go. I'm not much of a drinker. I mean even if I got drunk, I'd need to do something else as well.'

NOTES BY

Vishy Anand

CA 3.1 – E04
Vishy Anand
Veselin Topalov
Sofia 2010 (4)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.♗g2 ♗b4+ 6.♗d2 a5

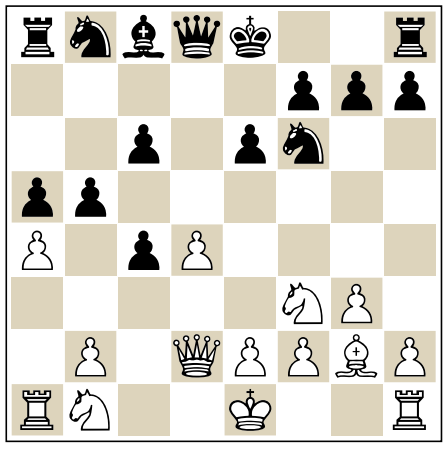


Going for the line he used in the first game of his match with Vlady (Kramnik – ed.).
We had checked it a lot during the pre-match camp.

7.♕c2 ♗xd2+ 8.♕xd2

Though the queen is losing a lot of time, White threatens ♕g5, forking g7 and b5, and so prevents Black supporting his c4 pawn.

8...c6 9.a4 b5



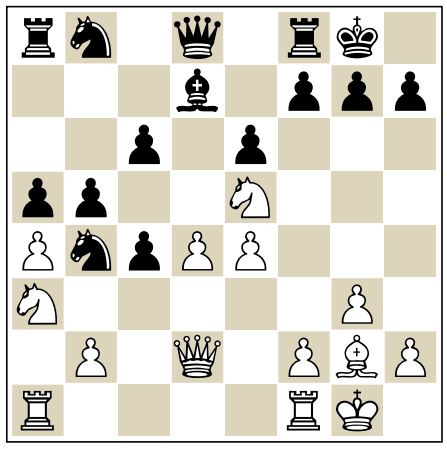
10.♘a3

A nice idea which Radek (Wojtaszek) developed in some detail before the match.

10...♗d7

One point is 10...♗a6 11.♘e5 ♘d5 12.♘xc6 ♘xc6 13.axb5, with a slight edge.

11.♘e5 ♘d5 12.e4 ♘b4 13.0-0 0-0



14.♖fd1

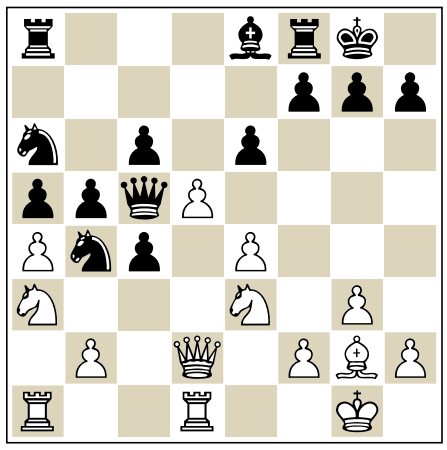
White could also have started with 14.d5, the idea remains the same – to undermine the b5 pawn.

14...♗e8 15.d5 ♕d6

There are alternatives, but this seems the most sensible.

16.♘g4 ♕c5 17.♘e3 ♘8a6

17...♖a7 is similar to the game, but Black's rook is better placed on d7: 18.dxc6 bxa4 19.♘axc4 ♗xc6 20.♘d6 ♖d7 21.♖ac1.
Still, White has excellent compensation for the pawn with the knight on d6.

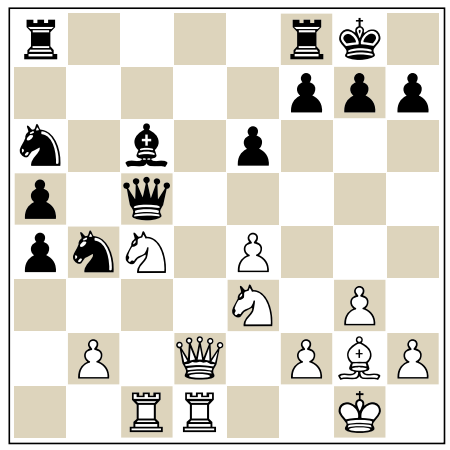


18.dxc6 bxa4

Black wants to keep his extra pawn, but concedes White some initiative in return.
The alternative was 18...♗xc6 19.axb5 ♗xb5 20.♘axc4 ♗xc4 21.♖ac1, with only a small edge for White.

19.♘axc4 ♗xc6 20.♖ac1

Here White keeps both knights and lots of threats – ♘d6, ♘g4/c4-e5. Also, Black's knights will find it difficult to get into the game.

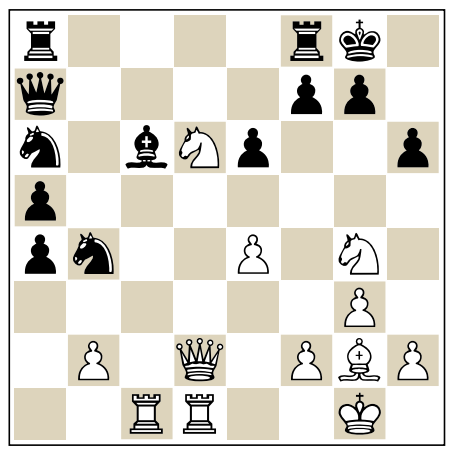


20...h6?

A serious error. Immediately, White has a target on the kingside which otherwise he would have to provoke somehow (perhaps by h4-h5).
Funnily, if Black wanted to give the king some luft, even ...h5 would be stronger. It stops ♘g4 and Black can get on with ...♖d8 etc. without worrying about the back rank later.
Bad was 20...♘a2? 21.♘xa5 ♘xc1 22.♖xc1 ♕b4 23.♕xb4 ♘xb4 24.♘xc6 ♘xc6 25.♖xc6, with a clear advantage for White.

21.♘d6 ♕a7 22.♘g4

Of course. Rustam (Kasimdzhanov) told me when I got back to the hotel that he had already been trying to play ♘g4-h6 even without h7-h6, so this must be very strong.



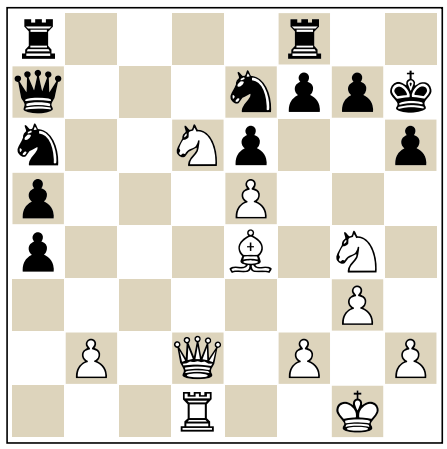
22...♖ad8?

I was pondering 22...♔h7 23.♖xc6 ♘xc6 24.e5 ♘e7 25.♗e4+

NEW IN CHESS

The winning team: Mark Lefler, Hans-Walter Schmitt, Vishy Anand, Christian Bossert, Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Aruna Anand, Surya Ganguly, Eric van Reem, Peter Heine Nielsen and Radoslaw Wojtaszek.

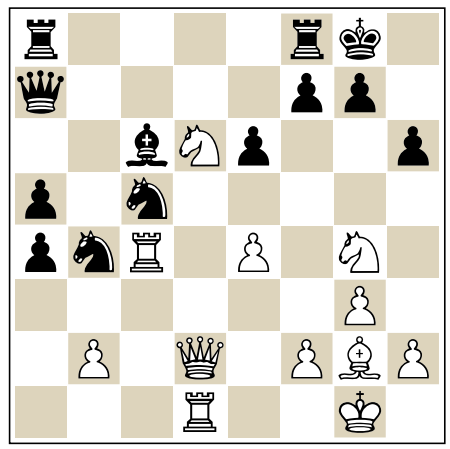
during the game. It seemed to me that White has a huge attack:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

25...♘g6 26.h4 ♘c5 27.♗xa8 (Anish Giri suggested 27.♗b1 and it seems to be even stronger: 27...♘b3 28.♕e2 ♔g8 – 28...h5 29.♘h2! ♔g8 30.♕xh5 ♘d4 31.♘g4 – 29.h5 ♘e7 30.♕d3 and White wins) 27...♖xa8 28.h5 ♘f8 29.♖c1! ♘b3 30.♕d3+ ♔g8 31.♖c4.

On 22...♘c5 again the same 23.♖c4 (if 23.♘xh6+ gxh6 24.♕xh6 ♘cd3) more or less suggests itself, and now:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 23...♖ad8 24.e5 ♗xg2 25.♘f6+ ♔h8 (if 25...gxf6 26.♖g4+ ♔h7 27.♖h4, and wins) 26.♖h4, and mate soon;

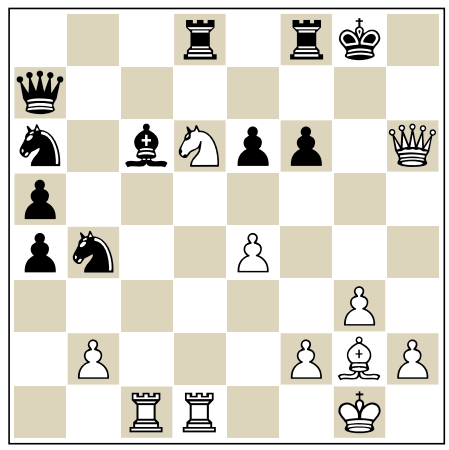
B) 23...♘b3 24.♘xh6+ ♔h7 25.♕f4 gxh6 26.e5! ♗xg2 27.♘f5 exf5 28.♕xf5+, and the black king gets mated;

C) Most stubborn is 23...f6 24.e5 f5 (24...♗xg2 25.exf6!) 25.♘xh6+ (also strong is 25.♘f6+ gxf6 26.exf6 ♖xf6 27.♗xc6 ♖d8; but bad is 25.♗xc6 ♘xc6 26.♘f6+ gxf6 27.exf6 ♘e4 28.♘xe4 ♘e5 29.♕xh6 ♘xc4 30.♘g5 ♘e5, and Black survives) 25...gxh6 26.♗xc6 ♘xc6 27.♕xh6 ♘xe5 28.♕g5+ ♕g7 29.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 30.♖xc5, when White is better, but there is still all to play for.

However, the ugly 22...f6! at least stops the sac. But 23.♖c4 might renew the threat: 23...h5 (23...♖ad8 24.e5! ♗xg2 25.♔xg2) 24.♘e3, when Black has made some concessions, but the game goes on.

23.♘xh6+ Now it's over.

23...gxh6 24.♕xh6 f6



25.e5

The equally tempting 25.♗h3 isn't very clear after 25...♕e7 26.

♖c4 ♘c7 (White wins after 26...♖xd6 27.♖xd6 ♕xd6 28.♕g6+ ♔h8 29.e5 ♕d1+ 30.♗f1).

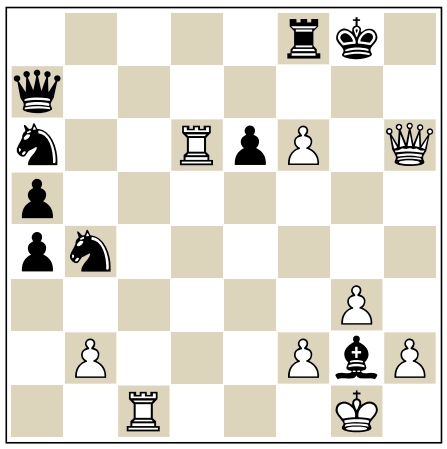
25...♗xg2

If 25...fxe5 26.♕xe6+ ♔h7 (or 26...♔h8 27.♕xe5+ ♔g8 28.♖d4, and wins) 27.♖xc6 ♕xf2+ 28.♔h1, and the threat of ♗e4 wins.

26.exf6 White's moves are not difficult to see.

26...♖xd6 On 26...♕h7 27.♕g5+ ♔h8 28.♖c4 wins.

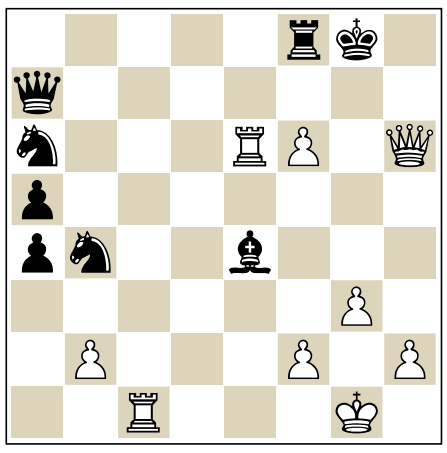
27.♖xd6



27...♗e4

The reason I took some time before the sac, was to see 27...♗d5 28.♖c4!. Once I saw it, I could go ahead. The line continues 28...♗xc4 29.♖d4!! ♖xf6 30.♖d8+ ♔f7 31.♕h7 mate.

28.♖xe6



28...♘d3 Also hopeless is 28...♕h7 29.♕g5+ ♔h8 (29...♗g6 30.f7+ ♔xf7 31.♖e7+ ♔g8 32.♖xh7, and wins) 30.♖xe4.

29.♖c2 ♕h7 30.f7+ ♕xf7 31.♖xe4 ♕f5 32.♖e7

And Topalov resigned. My best game of the match.

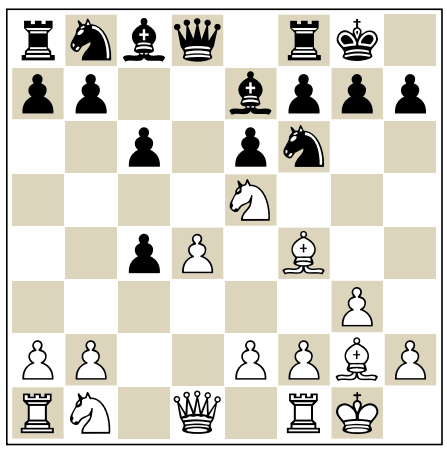
NOTES BY

Jan Smeets

QI 1.3 – E11
Vishy Anand
Veselin Topalov
Sofia 2010 (7)

Topalov had been under some pressure in the Catalan and he was trailing at –1. For this game something special had been prepared!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 ♗b4+ 5.♗d2 ♗e7 6.♗g2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.♗f4 dxc4 9.♘e5



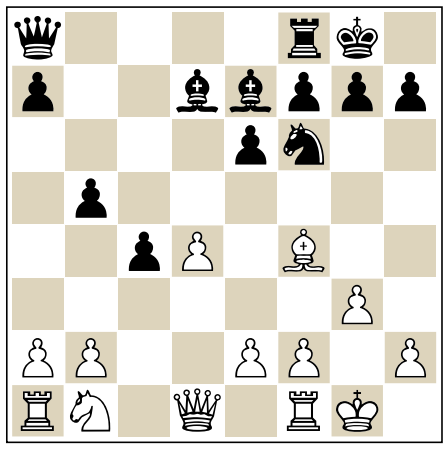
9...b5!?

8...dxc4 used to be played only in connection with 9...♘d5, but recently Ivanchuk uncorked this amazing novelty. Black is not just returning the pawn but sacrifices an exchange too!

10.♘xc6 ♘xc6 11.♗xc6 ♗d7

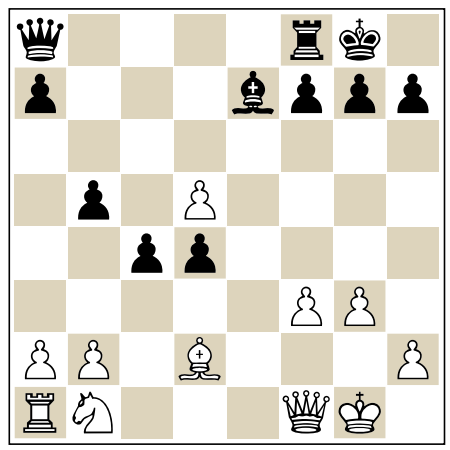
11...♗a6 was played in Gelfand-Ivanchuk, Amber 2010 (blindfold). 11...♗d7 gives the game a more concrete character. In many lines Black wants to play ...e5, followed by ...♗h3.

12.♗xa8 ♕xa8

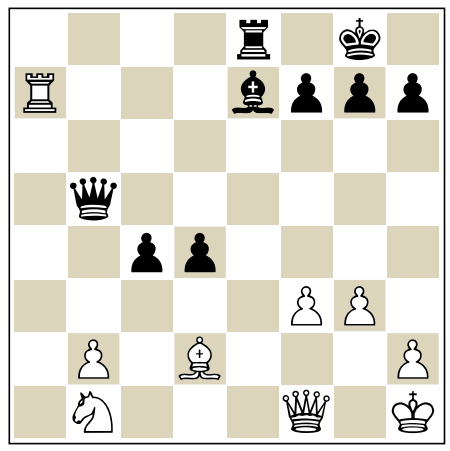


Black's compensation consists mainly of the weakened light squares around the white king. Besides, he is ahead in development and has a queenside majority. Add to that the fact that Topalov loves to sac exchanges and I think this position deserves a diagram.

13.f3 ♘d5 14.♗d2 e5 15.e4 ♗h3 16.exd5 ♗xf1 17.♕xf1 exd4



18.a4 ♕xd5 19.axb5 ♕xb5 20.♖xa7 ♖e8 21.♔h1 White had interesting alternatives on nearly every move. All I will say about them is this – no comment. Black has only one pawn for a piece now, but White's pieces are scattered around the board, lacking any coordination. The king has only got weaker – only the queen is around.



21...♗f8!?

21...♕xb2 was the safe alternative. Vishy would have to play one or two precise moves to secure the draw. Considering that Vishy had spent an hour and Veselin only three minutes, the decision to play on makes sense.

(continued on page 39)

Veselin Topalov:

'I do not understand that Anand accepts help from persons who humiliated him over the years'

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam

On the day of the closing ceremony Veselin Topalov sits down in the café of the Grand Hotel Sofia. Dressed in casual clothes, he looks fit and ready to play a couple more match games if needed. Still, he admits that he's 'a little bit sick' of chess and that he looks forward to relaxing and watching football in the months ahead. But he is unbroken. He's played an even match with the World Champion and his chess confidence is untouched.

– You are generally known for your incredible capacity to take defeats. But after all the tension that has been building up and the chances you had, this one must be hard to cope with even for you.

'I am the kind of person that doesn't look back, simply because it's always about the future. I always look at the future. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.'

– You manage to project a simple sentence like that on a world championship match?

'O, yeah, yeah, yeah. It's a heavy defeat and it's the end of a process that lasted for several years. But that's sport, it's something that cannot be turned back.'

– Are you, at the same time, also proud about the way you played?

'Yeah, I lost, but the confidence is still here, because the match was quite tense. It's not like when you're completely crushed and you know that you still need to improve a lot. My chess confidence is untouched. If you're not happy to have an even match against the World Champion...'

– What did you learn from the match against Kramnik? What effect did it have on the strategy for this match?

'It was different and quite similar. Here I managed to control my nerves better, until the last game. Except for that last game I wasn't taking so many risks. I could control myself better.'

– Was it a deliberate decision to rely less on opening novelties and more on play and exerting pressure?

'We had lots of ideas and opening novelties. Even in tournaments where the level is not so high it's almost impossible to win a game like I did in Game 1. That doesn't happen so often. But we had more ideas. In Game 7 I could blitz the first 20 moves. So, my opening preparation was very good. With the Sofia rules you of course have to be ready for a long fight. It

Veselin Topalov: 'I always look at the future. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.'

simply happened that neither of us was making really big mistakes, so some of the games were really tough. A weaker opponent would have been crushed in such a match. I don't think everyone could stand such tension and achieve this quality.'

– *Chess fans should be grateful for the unrelenting fighting spirit you showed, in each and every game against such a formidable opponent. Wasn't this exhausting?*

'Yes, but at the same time we had lots of free days. Twelve games is not that much, and we had six free days. But in general this match was something that I don't think will be repeated soon. Even if you have the Sofia rules, most games will not be that tense. That's what you can see from all the tournaments that have been played under these rules. This is simply the way it happened, because Anand was also quite eager and was trying to fight and avoiding repetitions in several games.'

– *Do you agree that by playing on, even in so-called drawn positions, you discovered new things in chess? That it proved that chess is even more difficult than we thought?*

'Equal positions lead to a draw only if both players play correctly during a long period of time. And this is not so easy, as you lose concentration, you get tired or you get into time-trouble. Theoretically speaking, these positions may be equal, but practically speaking this is another matter. This is sport, simply.'

– *I was just going to say that purists may object that you're turning the game into a sport. This is exactly what you want to do?*

'Well, it's about the result. We are not discussing here who played better. Anand remains World Champion because he scored more points. Not because he played better or showed better opening preparation or understanding.'

"I know . . ."

SILVIO DANAILOV

Candidate for President of the
European Chess Union

www.danailov-for-president.com

– *And if you were asked who played better?*

'Ah, I won't say that I played better, but it was very tense. There were several moments where it could have turned differently. For example, for me the critical moment was after Game 5. I had lost Game 4, and in Game 5 I missed a very pleasant advantage. Then I had to face two games in a row with black. But we found good ideas and solved the problems with the Catalan. This was the turning point of the match.'

– *When you took the initiative...*

'Yes. Well, it was not really the initiative, he could also have won Game 9. And I could probably have won Game 10.'

– *A psychological initiative then...*

'Yeah, it was clear that this match was tough; it became clear that it was not going to be easy.'

– *There was Game 1, where you could win more or less in one move. This must have been a very nice present. At the same time we've often seen in football matches that scoring in the first five minutes doesn't always help.*

'It was a very nice start, not only because of the result, but because his Grünfeld cracked. Sometimes in matches you don't always find the weakest spot in your opponent's repertoire, but here we did it in the first game. That was simply great. This was a heavy blow for him.'

– *Then there is this last game, in a phase of the match that you have this psychological initiative. You've said that you took too much risk.*

'It was a psychological initiative, but at the same time (starts laughing) this rapid chess was approaching. So, I was also in time-trouble. If the match had been longer I probably wouldn't have played like this. But then I thought, I have lost like four, five tie-breaks in my life, and against weaker rapid players than Vishy. It's not 100 per cent sure that you will lose, but statistically speaking he would of course be the favourite. That's not a secret. This was also his strategy, for which you cannot blame him.'

– *Was the opening he played one of the openings you had looked at?*

'Yeah, but what I was annoyed about was that in all other five white games I could get an opening advantage, and the only time he could really survive the opening was this one. Of course, the idea was not to take too many risks and to just keep on playing. But it was a suicidal decision of course.'

– *Anand was telling me that during the match he was living in a big bubble and he didn't want to know anything that was happening in the outside world.*

'That was the same for me, more or less. This is also the correct approach. I know more or less what is going on, but I don't read these chess websites.'

– *As the match was in Sofia, he also didn't want to know if anything was happening...*

'Nothing was happening. The moment India or any country had offered one cent more than the offer from Bulgaria, we would have gone to this country. So I don't feel guilty that Bulgaria had a three-million offer. This is professional sport, the highest bid wins.'

– *And they are still happy with the match they had.*

'I think so. I think it was a huge success. We were also lucky that at this moment the World Champion is from India, and it's a very good opportunity to give a positive image for Bulgaria, with relatively little money. A country like Bulgaria cannot bid for the Olympic Games, when only to bid you need 25 million. So chess is a relatively easy way to create a good image for the country, and I don't think the sponsors regret their decisions. And the people in general react in a positive manner, they show understanding. You will have seen in the playing hall that they were applauding both players. There was respect for both players. They also like him here, he's won many important events and he's been at the top for 20 years. In Bulgaria we have this culture. It's not like in Russia where you have to win or die. Simply, it's Europe.'

– *You had decided not to communicate during the game...*

'Don't forget that in general talking is not allowed. So there was in fact nothing new. It was only a way of saying that we had the Sofia rules and it's senseless to offer a draw in positions with still a lot of play. In fact we did communicate, because in one of the games, after move 1 or 2, I said: j'adoube.'

NEW IN CHESS

Both Anand and Topalov were masters at shaking hands without looking at the other.

– *During the match we did not get to see Anand's seconds, but when they appeared after the last game it was clear that all of them had been predicted correctly by your team and the press. However, it has become clear that Anand was supported by a number of most remarkable seconds. Not only did he get help from Magnus Carlsen, with whom it is known he gets along well, but also from Kramnik and Kasparov. What is your reaction to their role in the match?*

'The truth is I am not surprised that there were other players helping my opponent during the match. In fact, I also had contacts with other GMs before and during the match, but I will not reveal their names. What really surprised me is not who helped Anand during the match. What I do not understand is that he

'Kasparov's principles depend on the goals he needs to achieve at the moment'

accepts help from persons who humiliated him over the years. And instead of being ashamed and silent he is even proud of it. It is well-known how Anand was treated by Kasparov during their match in New York in 1995 and in the years after that. Anand was also obliged to accept the match in Bonn in 2008 already before Mexico 2007. (This was all part of the final stage of the 'reunification'. Kramnik obtained the right to play a match for the world championship against the winner of Mexico 2007 if he didn't win himself. Had he won in Mexico, Kramnik would have had to play a world championship match against Topalov – DJtG) He was also practically excluded from the cycle in the Prague agreement in 2002 and had to listen to the insults from his opponent before their match in Bonn. Now I understand why even the mentally unstable Fischer was admired. At least he had dignity. Something that the champions now do not have, no matter how many titles they win and how much millions they earn. They will still look for low-cost plane tickets instead of raising millions for chess in India.'

– *What do you think motivated Kramnik and Kasparov to give their support to Anand?*

'In both cases it is easy to explain. Kasparov's principles depend on the goals he needs to achieve at the moment, so they change as often as his goals. He has been fighting and supporting Campomanes and Ilyumzhinov when he saw benefits from doing so and now he helps the brightest product of the Soviet regime. But as you see, his principles change constantly. Who knows, maybe in the future he will offer his help to me. As far as my opponent from the Elista 2006 match is concerned, I think he reached a new level of human degradation. Even though I had good reason to wish for his defeat in Bonn 2008, I would never offer my help to Anand for free.'

– *Did you have any suspicions during the match that Anand might have such extra help from outside?*

'Actually I did not care, but since his opening preparation was far from good, my team and me found it hard to believe that he received advice from such an opening specialist as Kasparov. This also shows that Cheparinov, Smeets, l'Ami and Dufek (Jiri Dufek, the author of Rybka's opening book - DJtG) did a better job than all the seconds of Anand.'

– *It was said you had the help of a 112 core super computer.*

'Actually, it was not a 112 core. I received help from a IBM Blue Gene P supercomputer. I do not want to go into any details, but I can say that it is incomparable to a normal computer.'

– *When you resigned the last game, what did you say to Anand?*

'I told him I thought he could have won more easily on move 39, but in fact, OK, there are several wins. And then I congratulated him.'

– *In Spanish.*

'Yes.'

– *Now how does it continue for you? You are seeded into the Candidates' matches...*

'(Starts laughing) Into the virtual Candidates matches. Ah, it's like this, in the beginning you are kind of impatient with FIDE, but after some time you just don't care. It's a hopeless case, so...'

– *I asked Anand if he had any preference in the presidential elections...*

'(Laughing) In general my results don't depend on who is the President, but it will be funny to follow. It's one big comedy. I will laugh a lot. It's very nice to see all these guys going against each other, especially in Russia.'

– *At the start of the match you said the advantage you have over Anand is five years. You say your chess confidence has not been affected. Are you confident that you have time enough to fight for the highest title again?*

'At the moment my preparation is on a very high level, of course, but I will not play in the summer. Many things will happen and I don't know if in six months' time the knowledge that I have now will still be as superior as it is now compared to my future opponents. And in one year even less. One year in chess is a lot of time.'

– *But the ambition to continue for some more years is there?*

'Yes, I am enjoying myself. I am in a situation where I can turn down very good offers, as I do. I am very privileged, as very few players can do this.'

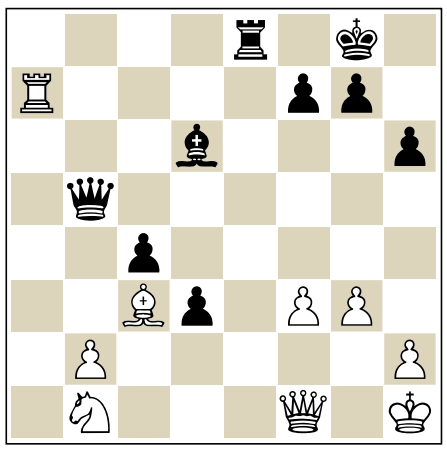
(continued from page 33)

After 21...♕xb2 play might continue 22.♕e1 (22.♕xc4 might be the easier one to calculate: 22...♕xb1+ 23.♔g2, and the d4 pawn cannot be rescued) 22...h6 23.♖xe7 ♖xe7 24.♕xe7 ♕xb1+ 25.♔g2 ♕b2 26.♕e8+ ♔h7 27.♕e4+ g6 28.♕e7 ♕xd2+ 29.♔h3 when there is no way to escape from a perpetual.

22.♖c7!

Forcing the d4 pawn to move so that White gains access to the c3-square for his pieces.

22...d3 23.♗c3 ♗d6 24.♖a7 h6!

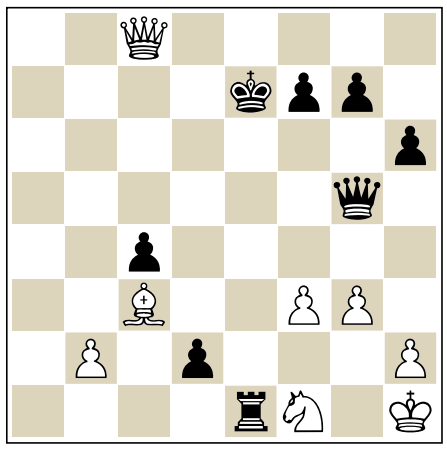


Useful prophylaxis – the rook can now freely move.

25.♘d2?!

This natural move is a bit of a mistake.

Better was 25.♕h3!. The queen is on her way to d7. During a game, abandoning the king is a difficult decision, but in analysis such moves are easily suggested. Now Black has to demonstrate mad skills to save the draw. I apologize for the long lines I am about to give but they are really worth your time!: 25...♕g5 26.♘d2 ♖e1+ 27.♘f1 d2 28.♖a8+ ♗f8 (28...♔h7? 29.♗xd2 ♕xd2 30.♕f5+ g6 31.♕xf7 mate) 29.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 30.♕c8+ ♔e7

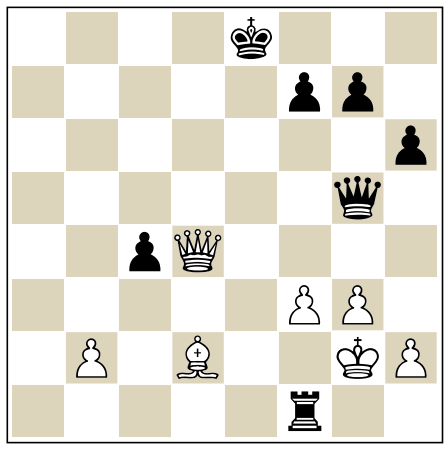


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

and now:

A) 31.♗b4+ ♔f6 32.♕c6+ ♖e6 33.♕d7 ♕f5 34.♕d4+ ♔g6 35.♘xd2 ♖e1+ 36.♔g2 ♖e2+ 37.♔g1 ♕d3 (37...♕c2 38.♕xc4 ♖xd2 39.♕a6+ f6 40.♗xd2 ♕xd2 41.♕b6, and on the next move White consolidates with 42.♕f2) 38.♕xd3+ cxd3 39.♗c3, and if White manages to untangle his pieces this may just be winning;

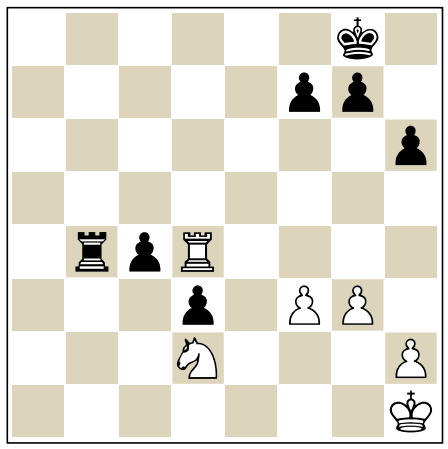
B) 31.♕c7+ – the plan is check, check, ♕d4+ and ♗xd2, which looks winning but...: 31...♔e8 32.♕c6+ ♔f8 33.♕a8+ ♔e7 34.♕a7+ ♔e6 35.♕b6+ ♔d7 36.♕d4+ ♔e8 37.♗xd2 ♖xf1+ 38.♔g2



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

38...♕b5!! 39.♔xf1 c3+ 40.♔f2 cxb2 41.♕e4+ ♔f8 42.♕b1 ♔g8, and despite the extra piece White cannot make any progress.

However, after 25.♕h3, 25...♗b4! is the only way: 26.♕d7 ♕xd7 27.♖xd7 ♖e2! 28.♗xb4 ♖xb2 29.♘d2 ♖xb4 30.♖d4



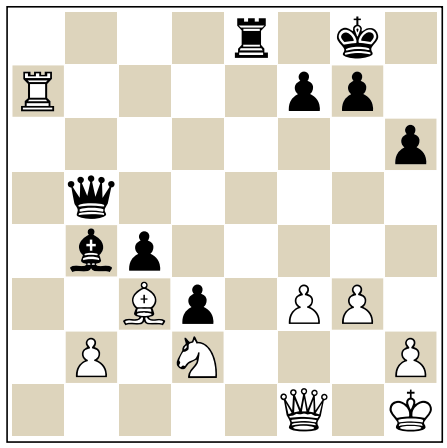
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

30...♖a4!! 31.♘xc4 (now 31.♖xc4 is no good: 31...♖a1+ 32.♔g2 ♖a2) 31...♔h7! (avoiding the check on d8). The best White can get now is a 3 vs 2 rook ending after something like 32.♖f4 ♖a2 33.♖xf7 d2 34.♘xd2 ♖xd2, but

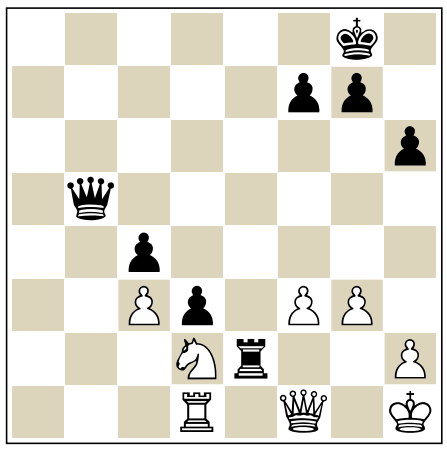
NEW IN CHESS

Silvio Danailov and Veselin Topalov arrive at the back of the Military Club.

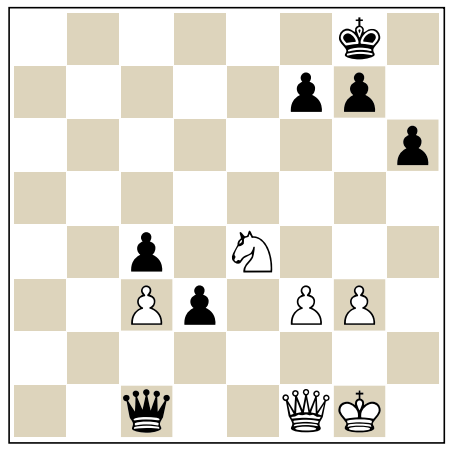
the game will of course be drawn.
25...♗b4! The bishop on c3 has to be exchanged.



26.♖a1
There are simply no alternatives: 26.♘e4 ♗xc3 27.bxc3 f5! 28.♘d6 ♕b6 29.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 30.♘xe8+ ♔f7, and White will suffer a great deal in the queen ending.
26...♗xc3
26...♖e2 is tricky too: 27.♗xb4! (27.♘e4 is the natural move but it loses: 27...♕h5 and White has to further weaken his kingside. I will spare you the details, but after h3 or h4 the main problem is the g3 pawn) 27...♕xb4 28.♕h3!, and there is sufficient counterplay.
27.bxc3 ♖e2 28.♖d1



28...♕a4
Now White can hold everything together. White's king is still very very weak, so it is not surprising that Black has some interesting options. There were many ways to continue the fight, and Black might just be better.
One try was 28...g5! 29.♘e4 (29.♕h3 ♕a4 30.♕f1 h5!!) 29...g4! 30.♘f6+ ♔g7 31.♘xg4 ♕d5. True, humanly speaking the g5-g4 sequence is impossible to find, but computers really appreciate it: 32.♔g1 ♕c5+ 33.♘f2 ♕e3, with total domination. Besides 28...g5, both 28...♕e5 and 28...♕h5 are also interesting.
29.♘e4 Now White is safe.
29...♕c2
29...f5 30.♖d2! draws: 30...fxe4 31.♖xe2 dxe2 32.♕xe2.
30.♖c1 ♖xh2+ 31.♔g1 ♖g2+ 32.♕xg2 ♕xc1+ 33.♕f1



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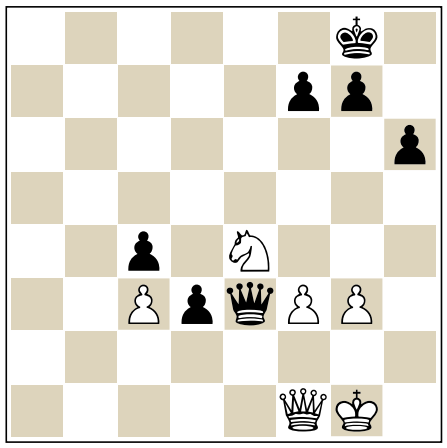
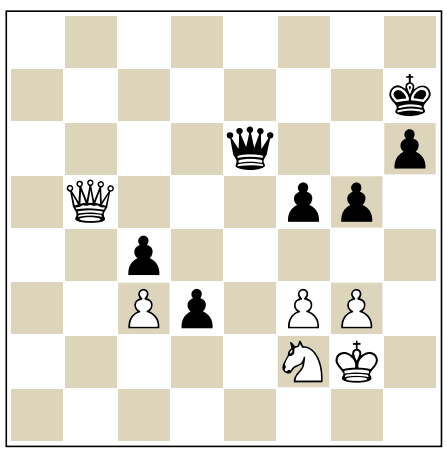
33...♕e3+
Here, instead of the queen check, 33...d2 34.♘xd2 ♕xd2 35.♕xc4, with a dead drawn position, should have been played.
34.♕f2 ♕c1+ 35.♕f1 ♕e3+

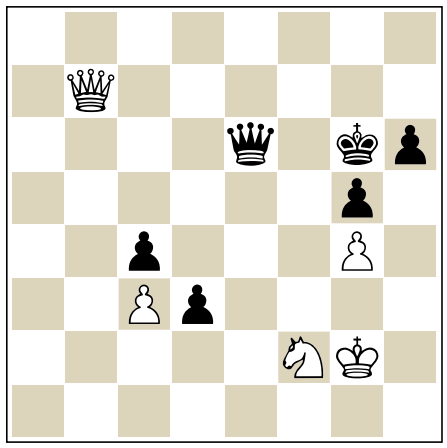


36.♔g2!
White is not risking anything.
36...f5 37.♘f2 ♔h7
Maybe 37...♔h8 was more precise. Now, after 38.♕b1, Black can play 38...d2, as f5 cannot be taken with check.
38.♕b1! ♕e6 39.♕b5 g5

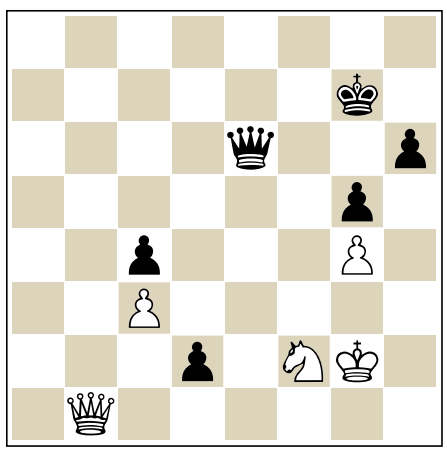


40.g4
40.♕c5!? was a good practical chance. Her majesty is going to d4: 40...d2! (40...♔g6 41.♕d4 h5 42.g4) 41.f4 (41.♕d4 ♕e2 42.g4 fxg4 43.fxg4 transposes to the game) 41...♔g6 42.♕e5 (42.♕d4 ♕e2) 42...♕xe5! 43.fxe5 g4! 44.♘d1 h5 45.♘e3 f4! 46.gxf4 h4, and there is no way to make any progress – White is tied up.
40...fxg4 41.fxg4 ♔g6
The immediate 41...d2 was a bit more precise.

42.♕b7
Here 42.♕a4! would have offered better chances, as it stops ...d2. It should lead to a draw after Black exchanges another pair of pawns with 42...h5.



42...d2
This is some kind of a fortress. White cannot approach the d2 pawn with his king, and the knight has to stay on f2 guarding the king and covering the d1-square. Only queen moves are left and that is what happened.
43.♕b1+ ♔g7 44.♔f1 ♕e7 45.♔g2 ♕e6 46.♕d1 ♕e3 47.♕f3 ♕e6 48.♕b7+ ♔g6 49.♕b1+ ♔g7

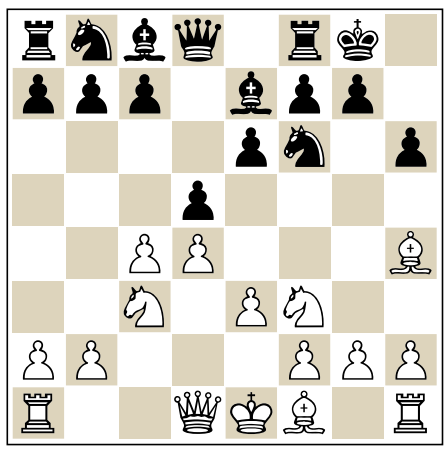


The same position arose after move 43 and 47.
50.♕d1 ♕e3 51.♕c2 ♕e2 52.♕a4 ♔g8 53.♕d7 ♔f8 54.♕d5 ♔g7 55.♔g3 ♕e3+ 56.♕f3 ♕e5+ 57.♔g2 ♕e6 58.♕d1
Draw. 58...♕e3 leads to a threefold repetition (move 46 and 50). A great fight!

NOTES BY
Peter Heine Nielsen

QO 14.14 – D56
Veselin Topalov
Vishy Anand
Sofia 2010 (12)

A score of 5½-5½ and black in the last game obviously is a cause for concern and nervousness, especially as the lost half points by late blunders in Games 7, 8 and 9 meant that the match should have been over long ago. Games 10 and 11, however, had not really gone our way, so the rest day before Game 12 we worked hard preparing a completely new opening for the decisive game.
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6!
No Slav or Grünfeld, but the QGD. A solid, common-sense opening that has stood the test of time through several world championship matches. A much better battlefield than awaiting Topalov's super-cluster improvement on earlier games. This ensured the match would be decided over the board. Vishy's experience with the QGD is indeed limited, but he used it extensively in the recent blitz world championship!
3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗g5
Topalov's favourite move, while his seconds prefer 5.♗f4.
5...h6 6.♗h4 0-0 7.e3

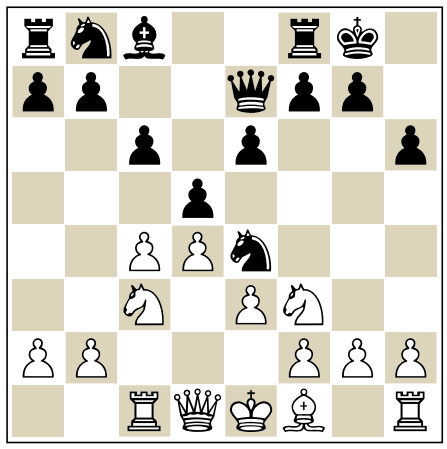


7...♘e4!?
Lasker's manoeuvre, which might be less popular than 7...b6, but still is a respected system.

8.♗xe7 ♕xe7 9.♖c1

Other moves exist, but in the line 5.♗g5 this is by far the most popular continuation we focused on during our preparation.

9...c6

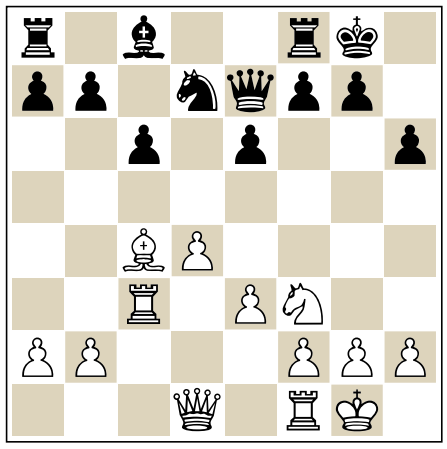


10.♗e2

An important finesse, almost exclusively seen at top level. The main move here is 10.♗d3, but this allows 10...♘xc3 11.♖xc3 ♘d7, with the point that 12.0-0 e5! equalizes instantly, as White cannot play 13.cxd5, due to 13...e4!.

Since Topalov played 10.♗e2 against Carlsen in 2009 and his second l'Ami played it against Jussupow in 2008, we were of course aware that they had studied the details of this system.

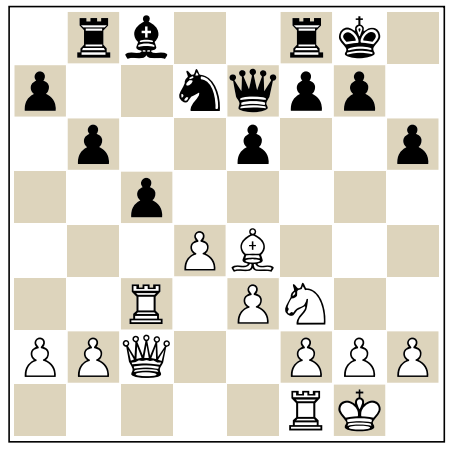
10...♘xc3 11.♖xc3 dxc4 12.♗xc4 ♘d7 13.0-0



13...b6!?

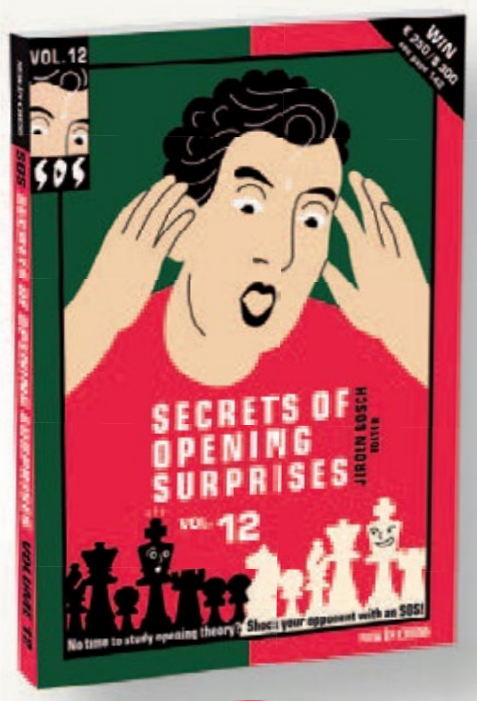
While the QGD and the Lasker Variation must have been considered by Topalov in his pre-match preparation, we assumed this line most likely wasn't. Especially for Game 12 it could seem an unlikely choice, as White now generally gets the pleasure of only playing for two results. Carlsen played 13...e5 against Topalov, and Vishy did the same in blitz versus Grischuk.

14.♗d3 c5 15.♗e4 ♖b8 16.♕c2



16.♕a4 is the main move, played by Anand himself against Kramnik in 1996 and 2001. After 16...♗b7 17.♗xb7 ♖xb7 18.♕c2 White normally has some pressure. 16...♘f6!? now makes sense

BAFFLE YOUR OPPONENT!



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too, as White can't even transpose to the game, because 17.dxc5 bxc5! hits b2, and thus wins a tempo for Black.

16...♘f6!?

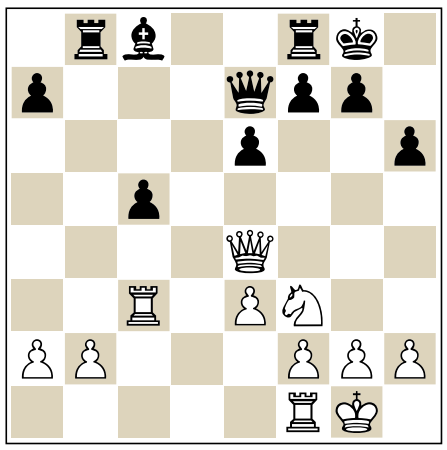
This rare move was one of the main reasons for turning our attention to the Lasker. It is played by the Polish grandmaster M. Grabarczyk, most recently against the sympathetic Faroe player Heini Olsen, who sadly passed away during the match.

We hoped 16...♘f6 would come as a surprise to Topalov, but since the move was discussed in a recent survey in New In Chess Yearbook 90 featuring the line, we could not be certain.

17.dxc5

The most principled reply. 17.♗c6 cxd4 18.♘xd4 e5 19.♘f3 ♗g4 keeps White's edge to a minimum, bordering on non-existing.

17...♘xe4 18.♕xe4 bxc5



The key position. Obviously the black pawn on c5 is very weak, but that weakness is compensated for by the open b-file, as well as by the strong bishop, which will soon start operating on the long diagonal. Black's counterplay seemed sufficient to us, and even gave us some grounds for optimism. If White wants to get real winning chances, he has to play very ambitiously, attacking c5 as well as trying to limit the black pieces, which all have access to open files or diagonals. A very difficult, almost impossible practical task.

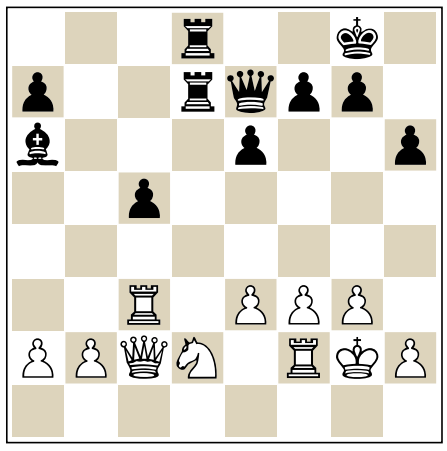
19.♕c2

As expected. 19.b3 ♗b7 20.♕f4 ♗xf3!? 21.♕xf3 ♖fd8 hardly offers any winning chances and Black drew easily in two of Grabarczyk's games.

19...♗b7 20.♘d2

An interesting and ambitious concept. 20.e4 is optically the obvious way of blocking the bishop, but the long diagonal is immediately reopened by 20...f5!?.

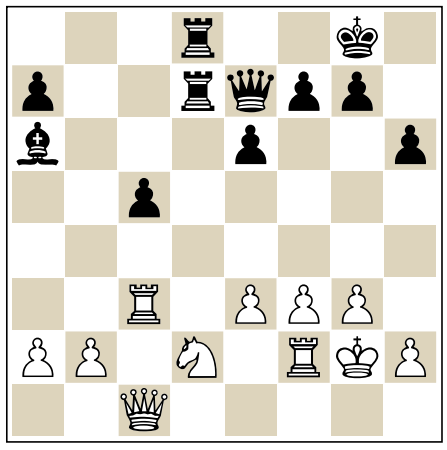
20...♖fd8 21.f3 ♗a6 22.♖f2!? ♖d7 23.g3!? ♖bd8 24.♔g2



White's plan has materialized. The concept is that now the long diagonal is solidly protected, so he can start attacking the c5 pawn. However, the d-file obviously is a factor, and Black can start dreaming of attacking White's king.

24...♗d3 25.♕c1 ♗a6!?

A strong psychological decision.

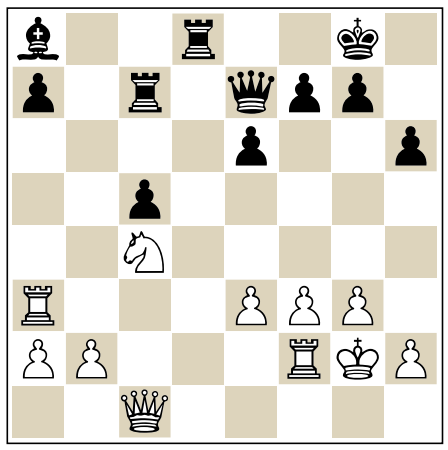


26.♖a3?!

Topalov does not repeat, but goes for a risky regrouping of his pieces. Objectively speaking, I think White should settle for a draw, but part of that equation obviously is an evaluation of his chances in a rapid play-off.

26...♗b7 27.♘b3 ♖c7 A necessary distraction. Still, the white pieces appear more sidetracked.

28.♘a5 ♗a8! An ideal square for the bishop. **29.♘c4**



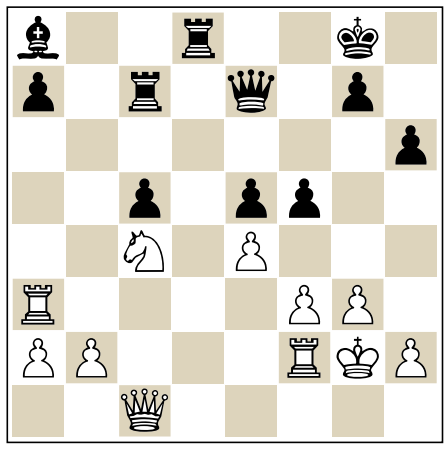
29...e5!

Actually, all pawn moves to the fifth rank on the kingside would make sense, but this is the most logical and 'human' one. Black wants to open the long diagonal, either by playing ...e4 himself, or as happened in the game, by undermining White's intended construction to block the bishop.

30.e4

Basically forced. If Black was allowed to play 30...e4, then even 31.f4 would not block the diagonal, as Black would always have 31...♖d3!, exploiting the fact that White can never exchange the rook, as the diagonal would then be opened to devastating effect.

30...f5!



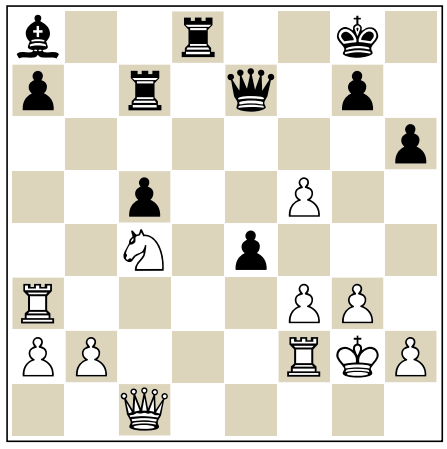
31.exf5?

The tensest moment in the match, for the players as well as for us seconds. Running my engine on three lines I could see that it wasn't

among the computer's top three moves. Still, that could mean anything from –0.23 to –4.

31...e4

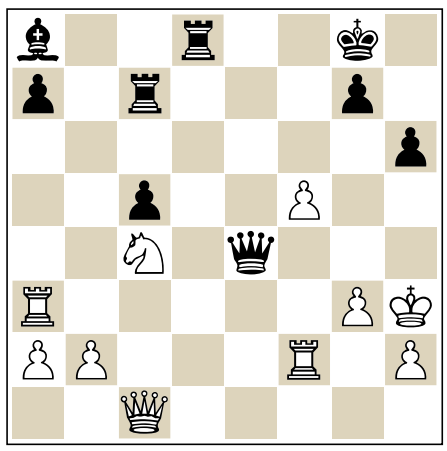
–0.4. Obviously a step in the right direction, but still far from decisive. Topalov executed his next move so quickly, that I didn't have time to recall Nunn's observation that a small mistake often will be followed by a bigger one.



32.fxe4??

–2.82 and climbing! This is a losing blunder, but the logical follow-up to his previous move. Generally, the move has been condemned as obvious suicide due to the queen and bishop soon dominating the long diagonal. However, if you place Black's d8 rook on either c8 or e8 instead, the computer instantly approves of White's concept! He actually would be better in that case, as Black's threats would be illusionary. Here, however, they are perfectly real and the World Champion executes the necessary only moves to secure his title and victory in the match.

32...♕xe4+ 33.♔h3



Sofia 2010

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		TPR
Vishy Anand	IGM IND 2787	**0**	**1**	**½**	**1**	**½**	**½**	**½**	**0**	**½**	**½**	**½**	**1**	**6½**	**2834**
Veselin Topalov	IGM BUL 2805	**1**	**0**	**½**	**0**	**½**	**½**	**½**	**1**	**½**	**½**	**½**	**0**	**5½**	**2758**

33...♖d4!

The only way to win. Black manages to attack White's king just in time.

34.♘e3 ♕e8!

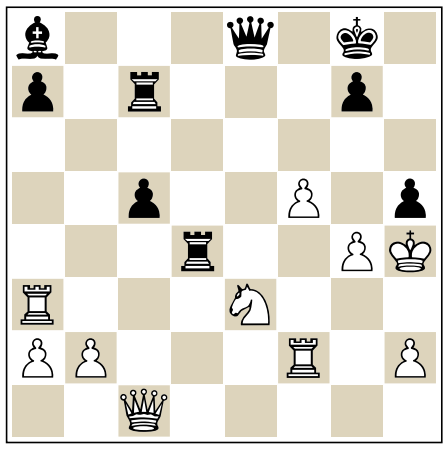
Now threatening mate on h5, and thus forcing White to weaken his position even further.

34...g5 would also be winning, but in a less convincing manner.

35.g4 h5! 36.♔h4!

An intelligent fighting attempt. Black still has to play carefully.

36.g5 would be the obvious move, of course, when White is again almost better. Yet he will be mated in 6 after 36...♕e4!, since there is no good defence to the mate on h4.



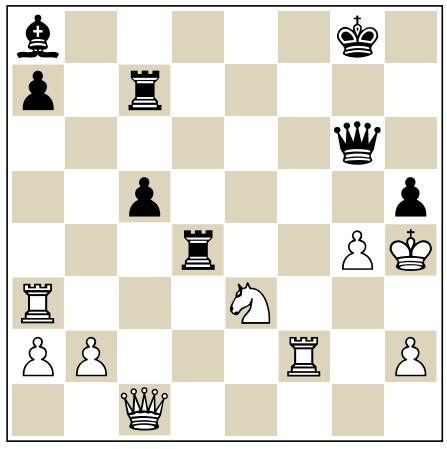
36...g5+!?

36...hxg4? looks logical, but would instantly reopen the match, as after 37.♘xg4 White's queen joins via g5, and the rook comes to g3. White might even be better.

36...♕d8+! was the move we rooted for in the presidential suite of the Hilton, which was our workroom for the match. After 37.f6 hxg4! Black has the threat of 38...g3+, followed by 39...♕d6+, and 38.♘xg4 gxf6! is now quite different from the earlier line, as Black's threat of 39...♖h7+ makes a decisive difference.

37.fxg6 ♕xg6

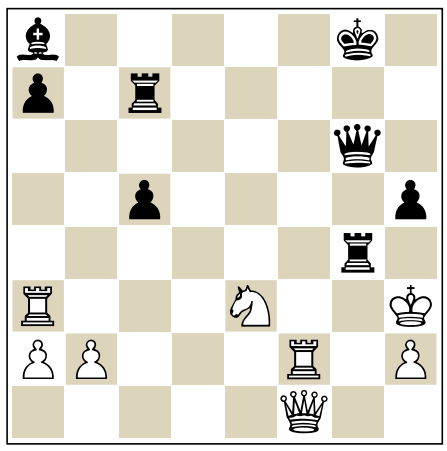
While not –11, Black is still winning. The white king is trapped on h4, and his queen and the rook on a3 are misplaced.



38.♕f1!

The only chance, again forcing Anand to find exact moves. Vishy, despite being probably the quickest calculator in the world, took his time before sealing the match with

38...♖xg4+ 39.♔h3



39...♖e7!

Excellent. Realizing White's threats are not real, Black prepares himself for the double rook sacrifice on e3 and h4, paving the way for ...♕g4 mate.

40.♖f8+

40.♕d1 defends against the sacrifices, but 40...♖d4! renews the threats and wins instantly.

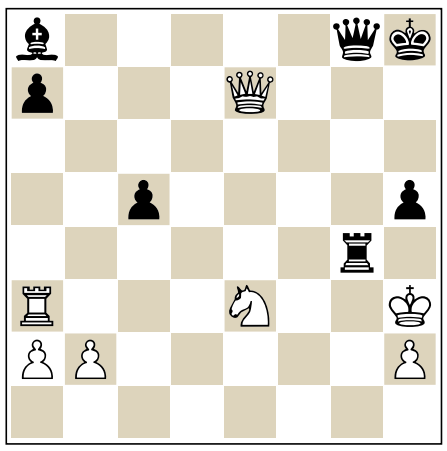
40...♔g7!

NEW IN CHESS

The room of the Hilton presidential suite where Anand's seconds Ganguly, Wojtaszek, Nielsen and Kasimdzhanov worked, preferably with German metal band Rammstein booming from the speakers in the adjoining room.

The human move, causing some confusion on the Net, as some even thought Vishy had blown his advantage due to the comps briefly showing 0.00.

40...♔h7!? also wins, but in a much more accidental manner, as after 41.♖h8+! ♔xh8 42.♕f8+ ♕g8! 43.♕xe7



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

43...♕c8!! (amazingly, 43...♗g2+ 44.♘xg2 ♕c8!! also wins) decides, as White's king is still trapped and his checks soon come to an end, for instance after 44.♕e5+ ♔g8!.

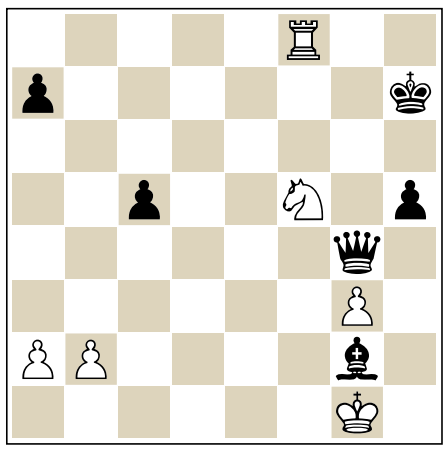
41.♘f5+ ♔h7!

41...♔xf8?? 42.♘xe7+ ♔xe7 43.♖xa7+! would turn the game 180 degrees.

42.♖g3

The only way of playing on, due to the threat of 42... ♖h4+, followed by 43...♕g4 mate.

42...♖xg3+ 43.hxg3 ♕g4+ 44.♔h2 ♖e2+ 45.♔g1 ♖g2+ 46.♕xg2 ♗xg2



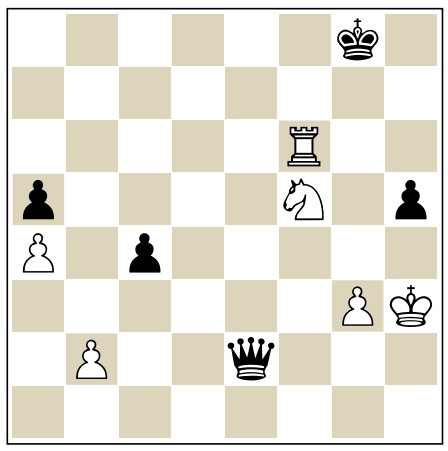
47.♔xg2

47.♖f7+!? was the move that confused the computers, and as a consequence the Internet spectators: 47...♔g6! 48.♖g7+ ♔xf5 49.♖xg4 hxg4 50.♔xg2, and even though the material is equal, the pawn ending is totally winning after 50...♔e4 51.♔f2 ♔d3!, when Black can either go straight for the queenside pawns or even pick up g3 first.

47...♕e2+ 48.♔h3 c4

Any engine of course wants to take on b2, but Vishy has his own way of finishing the job.

49.a4 a5! 50.♖f6 ♔g8!



An amazing concept; White is in zugzwang.

51.♘h6+ ♔g7 52.♖b6 ♕e4 53.♔h2 ♔h7! 54.♖d6 ♕e5 55.♘f7 ♕xb2+ 56.♔h3 ♕g7!

And as 57.♖d7 is impossible due to 57...♕g4+, Topalov resigned the game as well as the match.

In the best corner of heaven

Andor Lilienthal 1911-2010

With the exception of Steinitz he knew all the world champions. Anyone would have been proud of his score against the greats: with Lasker +1 =2, with Capablanca +1 –1 =3, with Alekhine –1 =1, with Euwe +2 =2, with Botvinnik +2 –5, and with Smyslov +4 –6, plus a large number of draws with the latter two. Which is to say, admirable results. But no one ever called Andor Lilienthal a challenger for the highest title, although he did participate in a Candidates' tournament once, in Budapest in 1950.

Genna Sosonko

What was the excellent grandmaster lacking? Talent? Health? Schooling? Probably a little of each. But the most correct explanation was given by Vasily Smyslov: 'He thought too much on others' behalf and about others, and in general felt sorry for his opponents. That kind of character doesn't give you championships. We criticized him for this, but we also envied him for it. For the fact that he never offended anyone, neither in chess nor in life.'

Even Botvinnik himself, who knew very well that Lilienthal had helped his opponents Smyslov and Petrosian in their matches for the championship title, spoke of him as he did of no one else: 'Andryusha is the only person who never gloated if you lost, and didn't suck up if you won. And in general he was incapable of bearing a grudge. I've never met another chess player of that type.'

When I asked Lilienthal about the best of the best, from the pre-war era he singled out Lasker, Capablanca and Alekhine, and from the post-war era, Tal, Fischer, Karpov and Kasparov. 'Botvinnik was a great player, of course, but still this was something else... Knowledge, willpower, vigour. Playing Botvinnik you got the feeling that a tank was about to run you over...'

I'm looking through the letters, faxes and postcards he sent me... Written by hand, on pages torn from a school notebook, with corrections and crossings-out, funny mistakes. On the envelope, initials and the formal mode of address underlined – to Mr. Grandmaster G.B. Sosonko. But in the envelope – warmth, a smile. And a name that no one ever called me by.

I take one of his letters: 'Dear Gennadichka, excuse an old rogue for writing so illiterately, but look at how grandmaster N evaluates the position. He thinks that White is better... And if Black plays like this?' And variations follow that he found after many days of painstaking analysis, in which artificial intelligence never took part.

Another letter. Analysis of the game Suhle-Anderssen, played in Berlin in 1864, on several pages. Clumsy, shaky handwriting. 'Dear Gennadichka, I'm sending material, if you don't like it, throw it in the bin. Don't make this a worry for you.' A diagram, drawn by hand: '...Anderssen was much better a few moves earlier, but later he started playing strangely and put his queen offside, which Suhle didn't exploit.' Then follows detailed analysis of the position and the conclusion: 'It's interesting that no one has paid any attention to this move for 136 years!'

We'll confess: we didn't pay attention either to the fact that in the game Suhle-Anderssen, played in Ber-

Andor Lilienthal, a smoker till his very last days, has another cigarette at the age of 96. ‘He wasn’t only happily blessed with talent, he also had the talent of being happy all his life.’

JAN RASCH

lin in 1864, the queen found itself offside, which White didn't exploit. Problems that seemed more important to us distracted us from analysing this position. It was done in the early 21st century in the modest Budapest flat of a very old man with the soul of a child.

Although he was considered a grandmaster even before the Second World War, Lilienthal only obtained the title of Soviet grandmaster when he turned to the highest authorities. As he told me: 'According to the rules they were supposed to award this title to me automatically – I had shared first place in the championship of the Soviet Union – but they didn't do that. I called Snegov then, the chairman of the Sport Committee. "What do you think of yourself?" he said. "Imagine if some professor came here from England. Do you think he could become a professor here just like that?" Next I wrote a letter to Molotov...'

The wary attitude towards Lilienthal was also maintained after the war. In 1951 the book *The Soviet School of Chess* appeared. Acknowledging his tactical mastery, the authors noted that grandmaster Lilienthal didn't devote the necessary attention to physical preparation and played inconsistently both in individual games and in whole tournaments. The explanation was obvious: 'These failures undoubtedly occur because Lilienthal has not completely mastered the methods of preparation that have been developed here, methods that world champion Botvinnik called "the main weapon of Soviet chess players" '.

A recording left on tape: '...communism was terrible, of course. In those days you had to be afraid of everyone. One out of five people in a group turned out to be an informer. In 1950 I had to coach the Polish team before the Olympiad. In order to go abroad you needed a reference. At the Sport Committee they told me that they hadn't received any reference for me. In fact the reason was simple – my older brother ended up in England after the war. They were afraid that if I got a visa I would run away to England. In the end, after long delays, they gave me permission for this trip, but when I arrived in Warsaw they told me that the Polish team had already left for the event a long time before...

'And in '52 before the Interzonal in Stockholm? I was supposed to leave in literally a few days' time, but suddenly a call from the Sport Committee: "Why didn't you tell us that you have typhoid?" "But I don't have any typhoid, I've never been sick with typhoid!" "No, no, we can't take the risk, you could infect the whole team with typhoid. You must show us a certificate saying that you're absolutely healthy..."

"I went to see Vishnevsky, a famous cardiologist, he examined me and gave me a certificate, but you can imagine what I went through while I was waiting for that certificate... But still, still, although communism brought so much tragedy to Russia, I love that country. I lived there, I worked, I published my books. All three of my wives were Russian. And I met very good people there. Wonderful people. And those people, they're not guilty of anything...'

He wasn't only happily blessed with talent, he also had the talent of being happy all his life. This doesn't happen very often. Most of his life came at a time that couldn't have failed to push him onto a path where he was aware of what was going on, especially as he had something to compare it with: he spent the first 24 years of his life in the West.

But even in the darkest times Andre Arnoldovich Lilienthal didn't lose his cheerfulness, his optimism, his bright outlook on life. Pragmatic personalities who don't do anything without planning and forethought couldn't give an explanation for his behaviour, although it's obvious: enormous and incorrigible kindness.

In 1977 he returned to Hungary and from then on lived in two homes: in Budapest and in Moscow. Even in three: a few years ago Lilienthal acquired a dacha near Sevastopol, where he spent the summer months.

Old age – that fossilisation, dryness, the harsh absence of desires – overlooked him. Although the list of pleasures in life got shorter for him with each year, there still remained sweet conversations with his wife Olga, walks with his beloved little dog Linda, light cigarettes, ice cream, coffee, and drives in the car. Socializing with friends. And chess. Analysis. Selfless analysis. Even at the dacha, off on long swims in the sea – he did that right up until his last years – Lilienthal continued analysing interesting positions tirelessly: there were no uninteresting ones for him.

In 2001 he celebrated his 90th birthday in Moscow. Unexpectedly Kramnik and Gelfand came to see the guest of honour. With presents and greetings. He was moved, he started crying. He hugged them both: Volodichka. Borenka.

Said Olga Lilienthal: 'In his last years Andryusha cried only twice: when he heard about the death of Bronstein and when Fischer died. Bobby had stayed with us. He spoke Russian with me and very decently, but with my husband he spoke English, and often German. He said to Bobby: "But why are you an anti-Semite? Why? I'm a Jew too, my parents were Jews, my sister died in a camp." "No," Fischer insisted, "you're not a Jew, you're a good person." '

I visited Lilienthal in Budapest a few times. Once we had lunch at his friends' place. The host was Russian,

and her husband was a Hungarian who spoke Russian fluently. You could go there without calling first, and the hosts' geniality knew no bounds. A spacious, dilapidated house on the outskirts of Budapest. Crumbling plaster. A glass-enclosed terrace, a door to the garden. Fischer, who adored Russian food, often dropped in on that house. He had lunch, and sometimes fell asleep right there on the ottoman in the living room.

After finger food and snacks, soup with meat and pickled cucumber, buckwheat kasha with rissoles, chicken and vegetables, and salad, the hostess is offended: 'But you didn't eat anything, take another little rissole...' Dessert. Coffee. To his wife: 'Olechka, I'd like to smoke a little *papirosa*.' 'You just smoked one, Andryushenka.' 'But that was only the third one today.' 'Not the third, the fourth.' 'Yes, but I really want to smoke a little *papirosa*...' Taking the first puff: 'Let's watch a film... Gennadichka, you want *Moscow Laughs*? I've already seen it a hundred times.'

'No,' Fischer insisted, 'you're not a Jew, you're a good person.'

The black-and-white film from 1934 played for a while. One year after the film was made, in 1935, Andor Lilienthal comes to Moscow for the first time. He meets Zhenechka here, and in this amazing, unforgiving country they will be inseparable for almost half a century of that unbelievable, indescribable era that was nothing like today, or any other time. But despite all that, he meets a multitude of good, very good people here: others simply don't cross his path.

Ten years ago, preparing for a Lasker symposium in Berlin, he sighed: 'We're only going for a couple of days. We can't go away for long – we have a little dog now, Linda. So charming, so wonderful...' He almost said – she's such a good person...

On the television screen a young Leonid Utyosov appeared on a Black Sea beach. The famous Soviet film star and singer started to sing: 'The heart is calmed by a happy song, it won't ever let me pine...' 'Look at him, Gennadichka, isn't he wonderful, ah, he's so marvellous! No, you just listen to the way he sings: "We can sing and laugh like children, amid fierce struggle and toil, it's just the way we were born, we never give in at all." Listen, listen... Ah, how I love him! Isn't he just marvellous... But why are you looking at me, Gennadichka? Why are you looking at me like that?'

Eighteen months ago he broke his hip. At 97 one doesn't usually recover from that kind of injury. He got through the operation and started walking again. The doctors were surprised: they'd rarely seen such an innately strong person. He analysed almost up to his last day. And smoked: five or six light cigarettes a day. In his last days – one a day. On the fifth of May he turned 99. On the sixth he smoked his last cigarette. On the eighth he was gone.

Lilienthal's book about his own life is called *A Life for Chess*. That isn't an exaggeration, it's a fact. Although he only played his first game at the age of 16, Lilienthal was one of those players who knew something about chess even before he learnt to play it. That quality is usually called natural talent.

He played for the last time two months before his death, when friends from Moscow came to Budapest. It was a lovely evening, and it was lively, and he even drank something, and there were beautiful women, something he had appreciated all his life. And everyone forgot that the host was almost 100 years old.

They buried him in Budapest in accordance with Jewish custom, and Hungary's chief rabbi read the prayers. He often repeated: 'Jews, Christians, they're all the same to me. There's one God. For me it doesn't play a role – a synagogue, a church – the most important thing is the person. And every morning when I wake up I say to God, thank you for the fact that I'm alive and that I have so many friends.'

Another page, written in his hand: an analysis of the final position of his game with Reshevsky, played in Leningrad in 1939. 'In this position Shmulik, as everyone called Reshevsky, offered a draw, which I, idiotically, accepted. But that only became clear to me now, 62 years later, when I first analysed this game. I guessed that Reshevsky had tricked me, because Black's position was hanging by a thread.'

Lilienthal proves that there was a win. A study-like win! But he modestly concludes: 'Sammy was a very religious and honest man, and perhaps in heaven, where Reshevsky probably is now, he'll refute my analysis...'

Andre Arnoldovich Lilienthal is in the best corner of heaven now, like the unassuming monk who never complained about anything and never condemned anyone.

For the last time in Dagomys

Vladimir Barsky

Team competitions occupy a special place in chess players' calendars.

First of all, there are guaranteed earnings (an appearance fee) and all expenses are normally paid by the organizers or sponsors. It is a nice chess 'get-together', especially if men and women are playing under the same roof. And as we will shortly be talking about the Russian Team Championship, one cannot help mentioning the excellent time of year and venue: the middle of spring, and the coast of the Black Sea.

Ten years ago the Russian Chess Federation made an agreement with the Dagomys Hotel, situated in the settlement of the same name on the outskirts of Sochi. Since that time, numerous training sessions and competitions have been organized there. Things become particularly intense in April, when Dagomys stages in turn the Club Championship of the country and the Junior Championships for various age groups. Both the juniors and the adults come here with pleasure: there are excellent playing conditions, reasonable rooms, good food, a beach and moderate prices for a three-star hotel. Of course, the beach is used mainly for walks, as the sea temperature is only 10 degrees. But year after year, bold spirits such as Inarkiev, Bologan and Motylev take their traditional bathes. I remember that in 2006 Motylev also swam in the North Sea at Wijk aan Zee and he said that each time after he did this he won his game. At the time I asked him somewhat maliciously why then did he not swim every day, instead of doing his exercises, but Alexander absolutely seriously explained: for such 'sanitary procedures' inspiration is needed, and if you overdo the swimming you scare away good luck. Of course, an April swim in the Black Sea is not so extreme as one in January in the North Sea, but for some reason most of us prefer to sit in a beach-side café with a cup of coffee and admire the sea from afar. In Sochi in the spring, when everything around is vividly blooming, life seems wonderful and amazing! And for swimming at the hotel there is an excellent sea-water pool.

The Team Championship was held in Dagomys for the seventh and, alas, the last time. Sochi is preparing for the 2014 Winter Olympics, and there is a construction boom in the town: new buildings are being erected, and old ones are closed for renovation. Local inhabitants like to tell the story of how an acquaintance of theirs (or a relative, or a relative of an acquaintance) bought a piece of land for, say, 5 thousand euros, and when the town became the Games capital they sold it for 50 or even 500 thousand. Although other authentic cases are known – in particular, Anatoly Karpov told me about this two years ago – where Sochi residents have been

Alexander Riazantsev, top scorer of the champions ShSM-64, has obviously benefited from his collaboration with Anatoly Karpov.

MARK GLUKHOVSKY

evicted from private houses and given small flats in return... This lawlessness would now appear to have come to an end. But construction cranes are visible everywhere, beginning directly from the airport, where a new terminal is almost ready. Sports complexes, hotels and residential blocks are springing up. Incidentally, we also travelled along a new road of decent standard, in the construction of which several tunnels had to be bored into the mountains. But the chess players' favourite Dagomys Hotel will be opened again in three years' time and will be five-star with corresponding prices, so that mass chess is unlikely to return here.

However, already this year there were far fewer players than usual. In the Premier League there were 10 teams instead of 12, in the Higher League – 8 (25-30 were expected), and in the Women's League there were only 7. As usual, the crisis affected the 'middling' teams most strongly, but the sponsored clubs also found things difficult. For example, 'Ural' from Yekaterinburg previously received money from the regional budget, thanks to the governor being a chess enthusiast, but another person has replaced him. As a result, it was only with difficulty that the team captain, Naum Rashkovsky, found the 2.5 thousand euros for the tournament entrance fee, and he dispensed with his leading players. Shirov, Kamsky and Radjabov, who had appeared in various years for 'Ural', did not come to Dagomys at all, while Grischuk switched to the 'Yugra' club from Khanty-Mansiysk. But in this region too there has recently been a change of governor; it is said that after the Olympiad in September, chess in Yugra will begin to wither. Let's hope that this prediction does not come true. One team ceased its existence because its sponsor ended up behind bars, and another (the women's Spartak club, Russian champions in 2009) because its owner, the businessman Shabtai Kalmanovich, was murdered...

In my view, in the last few years the prestige of the title 'Russian club champion' has greatly diminished. There is hardly any press coverage, the prize-fund is extremely small, and it is made up exclusively of entry fees – the Russian Chess Federation is unable to find a corporate sponsor. Genna Sosonko's prediction in his essay 'Beijing – 2024' is becoming true: chess players are beginning to sponsor themselves. For example, in the Premier League there was a team 'Amateurs', made up of former chess players who now earn a living by playing poker. They travelled at their own expense and also chipped in, to pay the entry fee. Players readily move from one team to another. The leading grandmasters stipulate that they will play for a club if it qualifies for the European Cup. On meeting in Dagomys, acquaintances ask one another: who are you playing for this year? And you? Literally on the eve of the first round, grandmaster Potkin was dragged from one club to another. It is probable that soon we will be divided into teams, like lads in the street, when the captains choose in turn: you're on my side, and you!

Despite the general decline in chess in the country, the Russian League remains one of the strongest in the world, second perhaps only to the Bundesliga. It is curious that the German League indirectly influenced the result of one of our matches. According to the regulations, between 9.30 and 10.00 a.m. each team had to provide a team list for the next round. If there was no list, it meant that you had to put out your main team. One day, the alarm-clock of the captain of Economist from Saratov (the club champions of Europe, incidentally) failed to go off, and he was late in submitting his team list. They had to begin the match with a zero, because Pavel Eljanov was already flying to Germany for the final round of the Bundesliga!

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Natalia Zhukova, playing for Giprorechtrans, impressed with a win in 22 moves (with black!) over Women World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk.

Generally speaking, on this occasion Economist (Wang Yue, Eljanov, Tomashevsky, Alekseev...) did not shine and they finished only third. The gold medals went to the Moscow club ShSM-64, which had two sponsors – the Moscow Sports Committee and our only chess magazine *64*. Those appearing for the winners were: Boris Gelfand, Sergey Karjakin, Wang Hao, Fabiano Caruana, Boris Grachev, Alexander Riazantsev, Evgeny Najer and Boris Savchenko. The best result – 6 points out of 7 – was made by Riazantsev, who has obviously benefited from his collaboration with Karpov (Anatoly Evgenevich has several times invited Alexander to be his second).

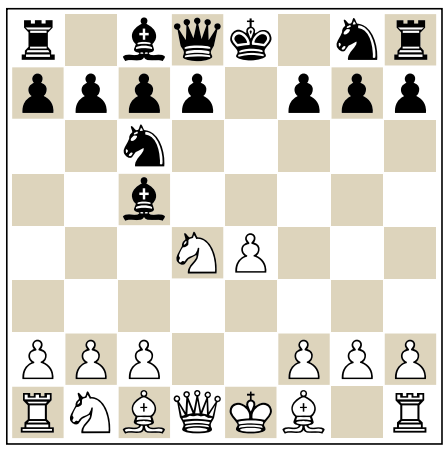
Second prize was for the club from St. Petersburg (Vasily Ivanchuk, Peter Svidler, Nikita Vitiugov, Sergey Movsesian, Vadim Zviagintsev, Zakhar Efimenko, Konstantin Sakaev and Vasily Yemelin). Close to the finish they were the only team able to contest the gold medals with 'ShSM-64', but they preferred to agree six draws. As they say, it's for you to decide...

The super-club Yugra from Khanty-Mansiysk (Alexander Grischuk, Dmitry Yakovenko, Vladimir Malakhov, Sergey Rublevsky, Konstantin Landa...) finished only fourth. They were memorable for their fine attire, specially produced for the championship – shirts and boots with the sponsor's logo. In fifth place were 'Ural' with the European champion Ian Nepomniachtchi on board one. These clubs qualified for the European Cup.

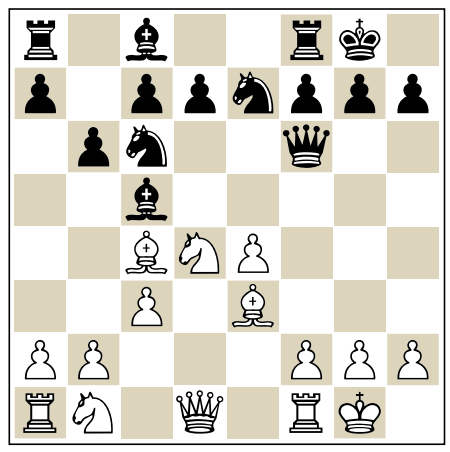
The women's tournament was very strong: appearing on top board were the world champion Alexandra Kosteniuk (Russia), Zhao Xue (China), Antoaneta Stefanova (Bulgaria), Viktoria Cmilyte (Lithuania) and Natalia Zhukova (Ukraine). The author of these lines performed the role of trainer of the Moscow team 'Giprorechtrans' (Zhukova, Munguntuul, Zayats, I.Vasilievich and Fominykh), which had the fifth highest initial rating. To everyone's surprise, we led from the first to the penultimate round. Natalia Zhukova showed herself to be an excellent team player, not only playing very reliably herself, but also helping her team colleagues, and even sharing her preparations. And how about her win with black in 22 moves against the world champion!

SO 5.6 – C45
Alexandra Kosteniuk
Natalia Zhukova
Sochi 2010 (5)

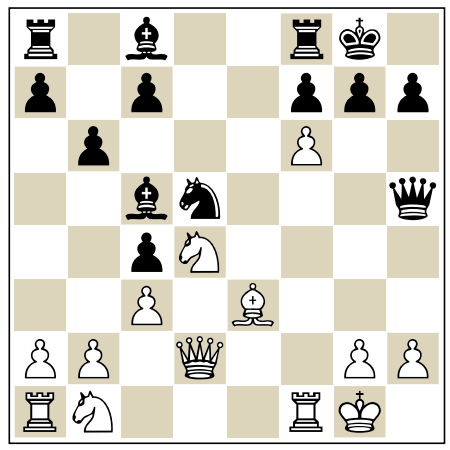
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4
A surprise – Kosteniuk has only employed the Scotch a couple of times in her career.
3...exd4 4.♘xd4 ♗c5



A brilliant practical decision! Earlier Zhukova had played only 4...♘f6, and her opponent would certainly have been excellently prepared for a theoretical discussion after 5.♘xc6 bxc6 6.e5 ♕e7 7.♕e2 ♘d5 etc.
5.♗e3 ♕f6 6.c3 ♘ge7 7.♗c4 0-0 8.0-0 b6!?
According to Natalia, this rare continuation was shown to her three months ago by her husband, Alexander Grischuk. It was Kosteniuk's time to stop and think.



9.f4
A poor move. White should play more modestly – 9.♘c2 or 9.♖e1.
9...d5! 10.e5?
Alexandra becomes rattled and, despite a long think, simply blunders a pawn. She should have switched to defence: 10.exd5 ♘a5 11.♗d3 ♖d8 12.♘d2 ♘xd5, as in the game Zelcic-Godena, Lugano 2007.
10...♕h6 11.♗e2 ♘xe5
As Vasily Vasilievich Smyslov used to explain, the double attack and the pin are the very basis of chess.
12.♕d2 ♘c4 13.♗xc4 dxc4 14.f5 ♕h5 15.f6 ♘d5

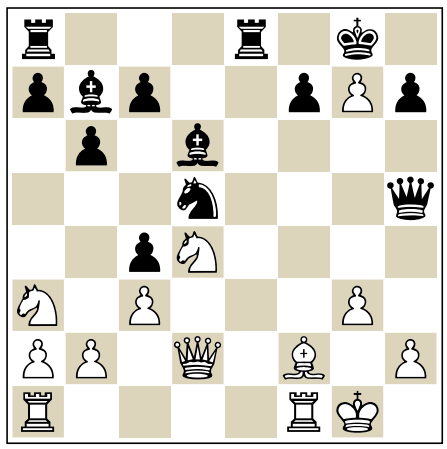


16.fxg7
Strangely enough, only this move turned out to be a novelty. However, in the source game Manca-Godena, Cremona 2005, White also did not hold out for long: 16.♘a3 ♗d6 17.♘f3 ♘xf6 18.♘xc4 ♗a6 19.♘xd6 ♗xf1 20.♖xf1 ♖ad8 etc.
16...♖e8 17.♗f2 ♗b7 18.♘a3 ♗d6
With material equal, Black has a

colossal lead in development, and in addition the white king is hopelessly weak.

19.g3

19.♗g3 would not have saved White in view of 19...♗xg3 20.hxg3 ♘e3 21.♖f2 ♘g4.



19...♘f4! 20.gxf4

Zhukova later admitted that she was secretly hoping for the variation 20.h4 ♕xh4! 21.gxh4 ♘h3 mate!

20...♕d5 21.♗e3 Or 21.♗g3 ♕h1+ 22.♔f2 ♕g2 mate.

21...♖xe3 22.♘f3 ♖xf3

White resigned. To Alexandra's credit, this crushing defeat did not unsettle her, and the next day she very confidently outplayed Viktoria Cmilyte with black. Generally speaking, Alexandra and Natalia are close friends, but games between them are always uncompromising. Men have something to learn from these beautiful ladies!

Unfortunately, in the last round we lost to our main rivals and finished in second place. The gold medals went to the formidable squad from St. Petersburg, virtually a combined European team (Cmilyte, Socko, Arakhamia, Atalik, Bondaruk and Demina). In third place was the Krasnoturisk 'AVS' team (Stefanova, Anna and Mariya Muzychuk, Pogonina, Shadrina and Savina). The three prize-winners will go forward to the European Club Championship.

NOTES BY

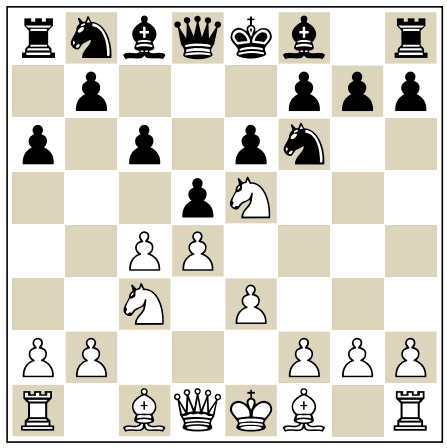
Alexander Riazantsev

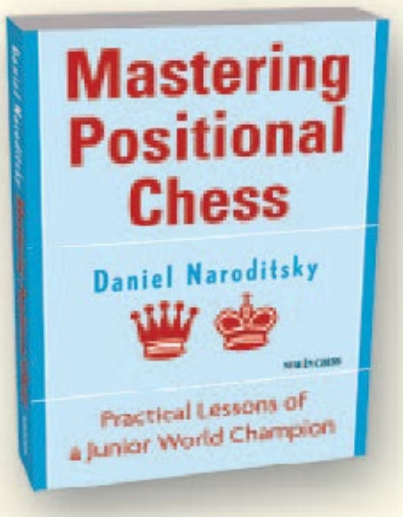
SL 8.1 – D45
Alexander Riazantsev
Alexander Shimanov
Sochi 2010 (7)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6 5.♘f3 e6

My opponent usually replies 5... b5, but in the fifth round I had already played this variation with white, and so he decided to be the first to surprise me.

6.♘e5!?





"It's a very good book – exceptionally instructive, full of practical advice that every chess player needs to pay attention to in order to get better."
Pete Tamburro, Chess Life

"The book is quite excellent. It is easy to understand and contains a good collection of illustrative examples."
GM Simen Agdestein

"In some ways, a book from earlier times in that it offers the reader a significant amount of explanatory prose. Yes, analysis is given, but only what is needed, not more."
IM John Donaldson

"It may well be one of the best books ever written on positional chess (..) Extremely well written, carefully selected examples showing the whole range of positional aspects of a particlaur theme."
Arne Moll, ChessVibes

"Is it possible that an author so young has sufficient wisdom to impart such knowledge? As far as this book goes, the answer is an unequivoical 'yes'."
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An interesting moment; here I stopped to think. Of course, I realized that the continuation employed by me could not lay claim to an opening advantage, but I knew for sure that it would guarantee a novel and interesting position without having to face any opening preparations. Before this I had employed the main and, I think, strongest continuations 6. b3 and 6.c5.

6...♘bd7

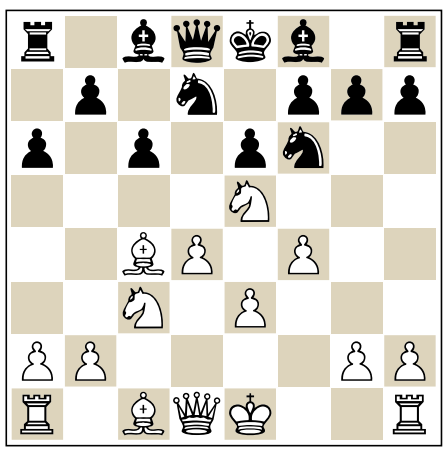
Somewhat passive. The knight on d7 is not very harmoniously placed and it hinders the development of the pieces. I would have preferred 6...c5.

7.f4!? Aggressive strategy. White seizes space in the centre.

7...dxc4

Opening the centre is too risky – Black develops my pieces without loss of time. It was safer to develop with 7...♗b4.

8.♗xc4



8...c5

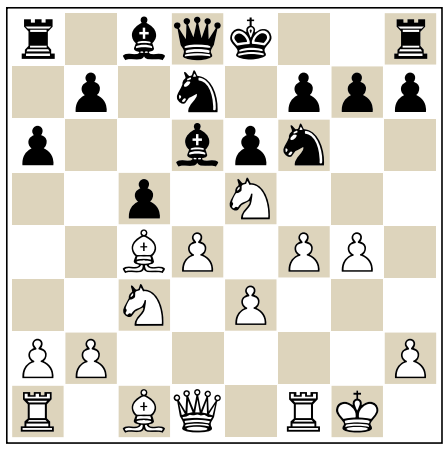
The following line is too dangerous for Black: 8...b5 9.♗b3 ♗b7 10.♘xf7! ♔xf7 11.f5 ♔e8 12.fxe6 ♘b6 13.e4.

9.0-0 ♗d6

After 9...b5 there is the strong reply 10.♕f3 ♖a7 11.♗b3 ♗b7 12.♕h3 with the initiative.

10.g4!?

White continues his aggressive strategy, trying not to allow Black to complete his development. The play takes on a concrete aspect. In fact, White had a wide choice of good moves, giving him the initiative; 10.♗d3 for example, but that day I was in the mood to play creatively.



10...b5!

Black must urgently bring new forces into the battle by developing his queenside. If 10...0-0 11.g5 ♘e8, then:

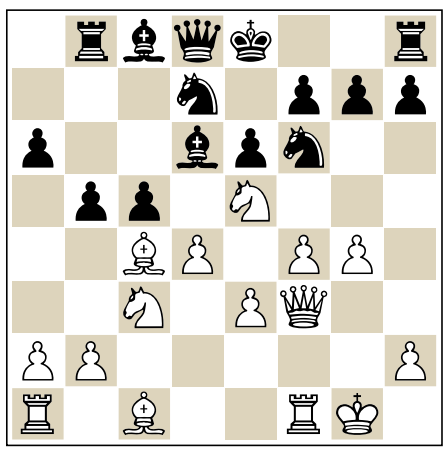
A) 12.♘xf7 (this leads only to a pretty repetition of moves) 12...♔xf7! (bad is 12...♖xf7 13.♗xe6 ♕e7 14.d5) 13.♗xe6+ ♔xe6 14.♕b3+ ♔e7 15.♘d5+ ♔f7 16.♘f6+ ♔e7;

B) 12.♕f3! cxd4 13.exd4 ♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♕b6+ 15.♗e3 ♗c5 16.♖ae1, and White is better.

Here I spent a long time calculating the intermediate move 11.♕f3, but in the end I placed my choice on 11.♗b3.

11.♗b3

After 11.♕f3 interesting variations would have arisen, leading to unclear positions: 11...♖b8, and now:



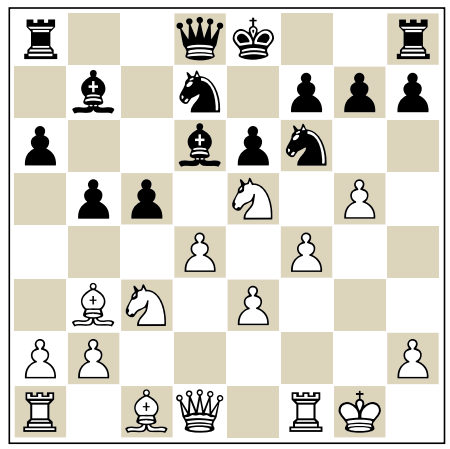
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 12.♘c6 ♗b7 13.d5 ♕b6 14.♘xb8 ♗xb8 15.g5 bxc4 16.gxf6 ♘xf6 17.e4 exd5 18.exd5 0-0, with excellent compensation;

B) 12.♗b3!? ♗b7 13.♕h3 cxd4 14.exd4 h5! 15.g5 ♗xe5 16.fxe5 ♘g4 17.♗e3 (17.g6? ♘dxe5) 17...g6, with unclear play.

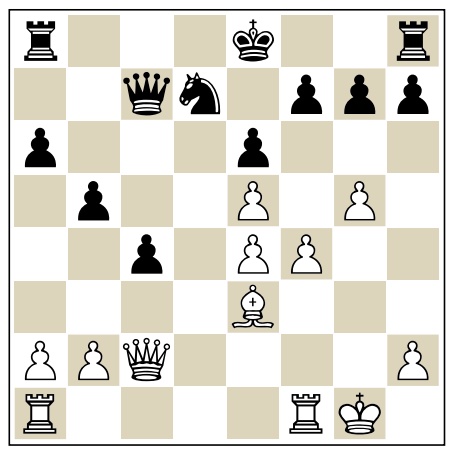
11...♗b7 12.g5

The critical position. Here Black had several possibilities.



12...♘e4

Black cannot be satisfied with 12...♘d5?! 13.♘xd5 ♗xd5 14.♗xd5 exd5 15.dxc5! ♗xe5 16.♕xd5 0-0 17.c6 ♘b8 18.♕xe5 ♘xc6 19.♕e4. But there was a strong intermediate move, which my opponent must have overlooked: 12...♗xe5! 13.dxe5 ♘e4 14.♘xe4 ♗xe4 15.♗c2 ♗xc2 16.♕xc2 ♕c7 17.e4 c4 18.♗e3,



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

with complicated play, since if 18...h6 there is the interesting 19.g6 fxg6 20.♕g2 ♘f8 21.a4 b4 22.♖ad1, with an unclear position in which all three results are possible.

13.♕f3!

A strong move; otherwise the initiative cannot be maintained. For

example 13.♕h5?! ♗xe5! 14.dxe5 ♘xc3 15.bxc3 ♗e4! 16.♗xe6 g6.

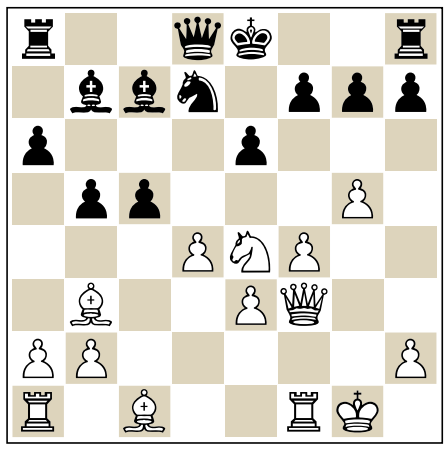
13...♗xe5

The only move. If 13...♘xc3?! then 14.♕xb7 ♘e2+ 15.♔g2.

14.♘xe4

Of course not 14.dxe5??, because of 14...♘xe5.

14...♗c7

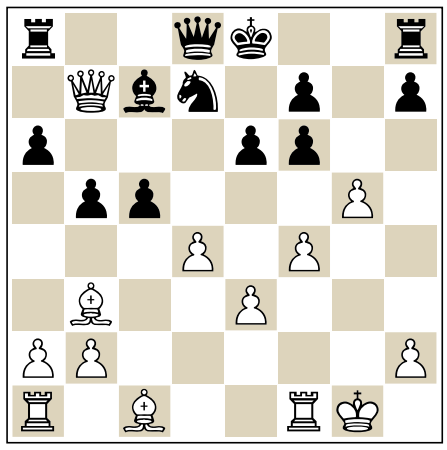


15.♘f6+!

Maintaining the tempo of the attack. For the sake of exposing the black king, White does not begrudge giving up a pawn.

15.♘d6+ ♗xd6 16.♕xb7 0-0 17.♖d1 ♕b6 was too modest.

15...gxf6 16.♕xb7



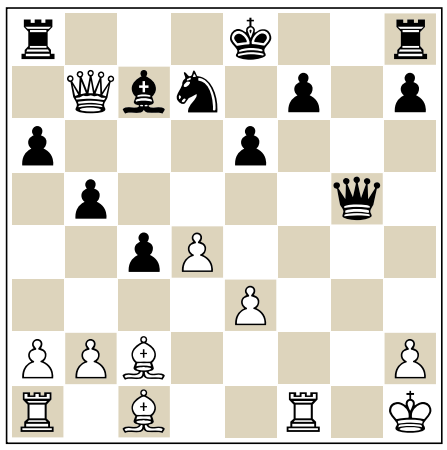
16...c4

A very interesting position. White's queenside is idle and he has only three pieces in play, but Black's pieces are too badly placed (especially the knight on d7), and so he is unable to coordinate them and extinguish White's initiative.

17.♗c2 fxg5 18.fxg5

18.f5 e5 19.a4 ♖b8 20.♕g2 ♕f6 is unclear.

18...♕xg5+ 19.♔h1



19...♕d8?

A serious mistake. With the queens on, Black is unable to restrain the activity of the white pieces. He should have exchanged them, although after this he would have faced a difficult defence in the endgame, on account of his pawn weaknesses on the kingside: 19...♕d5+ 20.♕xd5 exd5 21.♖f5! (21.e4? 0-0-0) 21...♘b6 22.♗d2! (intending 23.♗a5) 22...0-0-0 23.♖xf7 ♖hf8 (23...♘a4 24.b3) 24.♖af1.

20.♕f3! f6?

Black's position begins to collapse. 20...♖f8 was more resilient: 21.♗d2 ♘b6 22.♗b4 ♗d6 23.♗a5! ♖c8 24.e4, although obviously White is better.

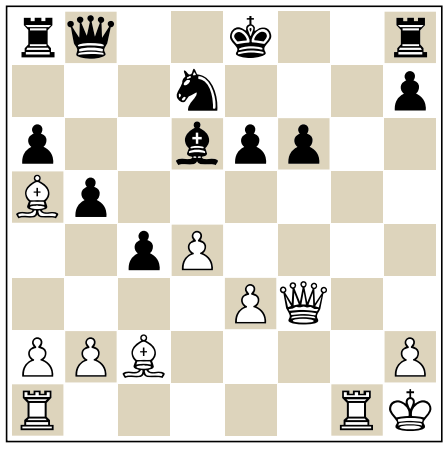
21.♗d2

Including the bishop in the attack.

21...♗d6 22.♗a5 ♕b8

Or 22...♕xa5 23.♕xa8+ ♗b8 24.♕g2, and wins.

23.♖g1!



23...♖f8 24.♖g7 ♖f7 25.♖ag1 f5 26.♖xf7 ♔xf7 27.♕h5+ ♔f8 28.♕h6+

Black resigned.

NOTES BY

Sergey Karjakin

SI 14.8 – B90
Alexander Kovchan
Sergey Karjakin
Sochi 2010 (9)

Since in this tournament I was doing well with the black pieces, despite the obvious bias towards black the team decided to replace Gelfand and give me the black pieces!

My opponent from the Ukraine, Alexander Kovchan, is well known to me – when we were juniors we often played in the same tournaments. In this tournament he had played all the leading Ukrainian players (Ponomariov, Ivanchuk and Eljanov) and should have scored +1. And now, in the last round, he again faced a Ukrainian player, this time a former one!

1.e4 c5

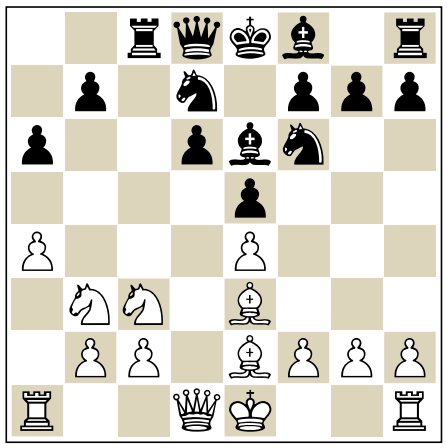
Recently I have often played 1...e5, but at times I am tormented by such a nostalgia for the Najdorf, that now I decided, come what may, I would play the Najdorf!

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.♗e2

This is what Smeets played against me at the tournament in Wijk aan Zee. Before that tournament I found an idea with the switching of the knight to b6, and I obtained excellent play, but later in the same tournament the crafty Ivanchuk played against me 6.♗e2 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♗e3 ♗e6 10.♕d2 ♘bd7 11.a4, and in the end for some reason my knight did not manage to go via b6 to c4!

8...♘bd7 9.a4 ♖c8

Trying to do everything with all possible comfort, in order to later capture on c4 with the rook. The immediate 9...♘b6 is also quite possible.

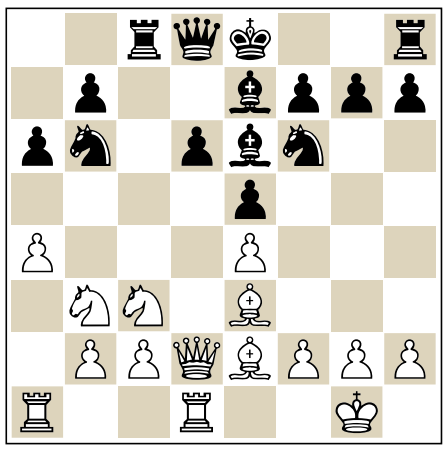


10.♕d2

I think that 10.a5 is more critical, as Kovchan played in the same tournament against Nepomniachtchi (with the inclusion of 0-0/...♗e7), and now 10...♖xc3 11.bxc3 ♘xe4. In the end Nepomniachtchi won an excellent game, and therefore I sensed that my opponent would not play this again, although I am not 100% convinced about the correctness of the exchange sacrifice. In any case White should play this, since in the game I was able to achieve everything that Black dreams about in this variation!

10...♘b6 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.♖fd1!

More accurate than 12.a5 ♘c4 13.♗xc4 ♖xc4 14.f3 0-0.



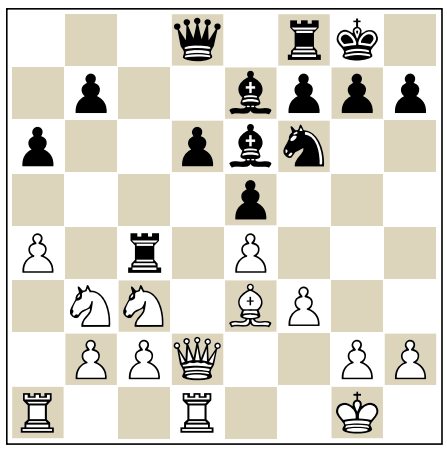
12...♘c4

Here if 12...0-0 White can play 13.♗g5!, and it is not so easy for Black to defend against ♗xf6. Of course, he can sacrifice a pawn by 13...♘c4 14.♗xc4 ♖xc4 15.♗xf6 ♗xf6 16.♕xd6 ♕xd6 17.♖xd6 ♖b4, with a minimal edge for Black, but the game will most probably end in a draw. I wanted to keep more pieces on the board.

13.♗xc4 ♖xc4 14.f3

14.♕d3 is more thematic, when Black can reply, for example, 14...0-0 15.♘d5 ♗xd5 16.exd5 ♕c7 17.c3 ♘g4 with a slight initiative, but nevertheless this is what White should have played.

14...0-0

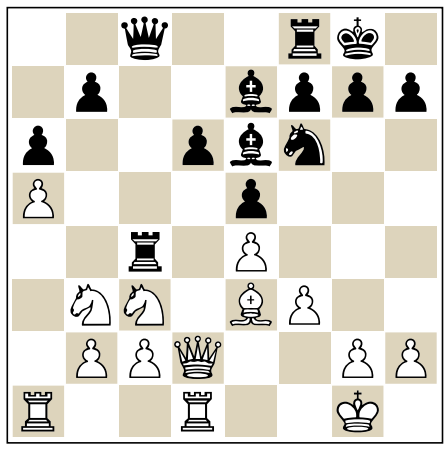


15.a5

After the exchange of the d7 knight there is no particular point in this advance, and therefore White should perhaps have played 15.♘c1 immediately, with a fairly solid position. I should mention that 15.♗g5 is bad in view of 15...♘g4!, and if 16.♗xe7?! ♕b6+ 17.♔f1? (better is 17.♔h1 ♘f2+ 18.♕xf2 ♕xf2 19.♖d2 ♕a7 20.♗xf8 ♔xf8, although here too Black is on top) 17...♖xc3!, with crushing threats!

15...♕c8!

White has played the opening superficially and I think that Black's position is already the more pleasant. In addition, with his next move White allows a typical stroke.



16.♘c1?!

A mistake, but to be fair it should

MARK GLUKHOVSKY

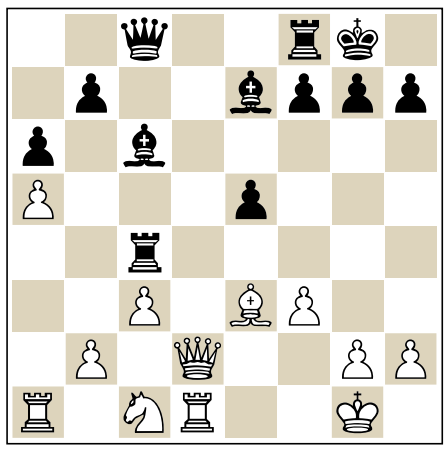
Sergey Karjakin had the best result on his board and won 14 rating points in 7 games. His friend and second Alexander Motylev shares in his happiness.

be said that White had problems in deciding on a plan, and that playing black here is sheer pleasure!

16...d5! Exploiting the fact that the rook on d1 is undefended, Black opens the position and his two bishops become very active.

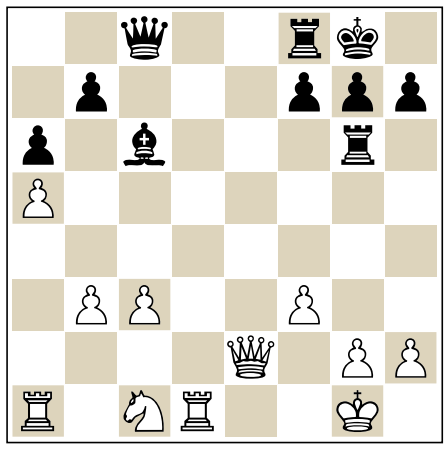
17.exd5 ♘xd5 18.♘xd5 ♗xd5 19.c3 ♗c6

Perhaps 19...e4! was objectively stronger, but I thought that White would be able to consolidate, for example by 20.♘e2 ♖d8 21.f4 ♖c6 22.♘d4, although the computer does not confirm this, reckoning that Black has the advantage. But at the board I wanted to play for an attack. Possibly my decision was over-optimistic, but in the game it justified itself.



20.♘d3?!

Too slow! White should have urgently looked for a tactical solution. After 20.b3 ♖h4 21.♗g5 ♗xg5 22.♕xg5 ♖h6 23.♕xe5 (23.♕e3) 23...♖g6 24.♕e2.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

White's position looks extremely dangerous, but no forced win is apparent, for example:

Russian League Sochi 2010

		AVG	Mp	Bp
1	ShSM-64	2700	16	36½
2	SPb Chess Fed	2700	14	33
3	Economist-SGSEU 1	2704	12	33
4	Yugra	2689	11	29½
5	Ural	2618	11	29
6	Tomsk-400	2687	9	29
7	Chigorin Chess Club	2584	8	23½
8	Etude-Contact	2555	6	25
9	Economist-SGSEU 2	2548	3	17½
10	BelGU	2493	0	14

A) 24...♕h3 25.♖d6!! ♖g5 26.♘d3 ♗xf3 27.♘f4 ♕g4 28.♕d2, and White holds on;

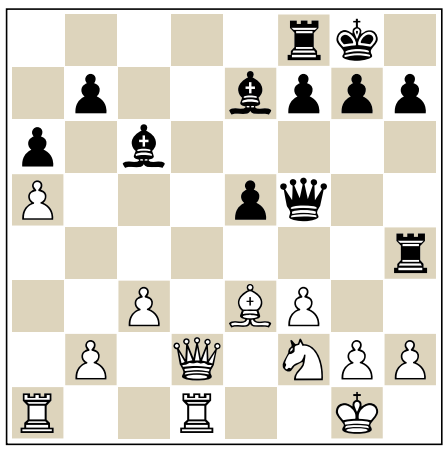
B) 24...♕f5 (this is objectively stronger) 25.♔h1 ♖e8 26.♕f2 ♕e5 27.♘a2 (27.♘d3 ♕xc3 28.♕b2 ♕xb2 29.♘xb2 ♖g5, with a slight advantage, but with accurate play White should be able to draw.

20...♕f5

Now Black has the initiative 'for free'. All his pieces are ideally placed and are participating in the attack.

21.♘f2 ♖h4

At this point I got up from the board and said to Nepomniachtchi: 'I've got a Gelfand rook!', having in mind his ...♖a6-g6 manoeuvre from the game with me in Khanty-Mansiysk. When I mentioned this after the game to Gelfand, he thought that I had in mind our game from Jermuk, where he also brought his rook to h4. Apparently in every game Boris tries to checkmate me. And sometimes successfully ☺.

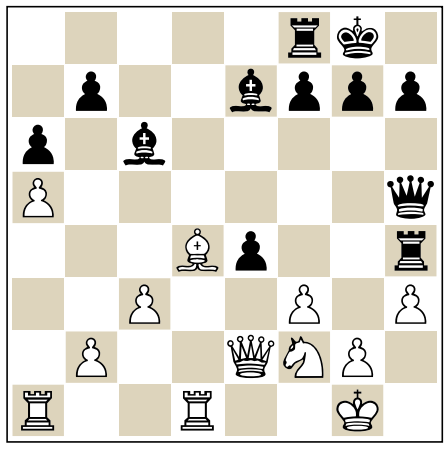


22.♕e2? The decisive mistake, although it is already hard to offer White any good advice. Usually a rook on h4 creates an enormous psychological effect, after which it is difficult for White to continue playing calmly. The rook gets on his nerves!

The useful move 22.b4 should have been made, when although Black retains an obvious advantage, at least White does not lose by force.

22...♕h5 Now Black is winning.

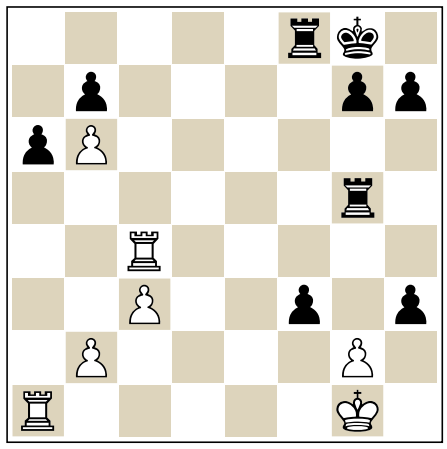
23.h3 e4 24.♗d4



24...♗d8!

The most accurate, although the position is of the sort where 'everything is good'. The rest does not require any commentary.

25.♘g4 exf3 26.♕e5 ♕g6 27.♕g3 ♖h5 28.♗b6 ♗xb6+ 29.axb6 f5 30.♖d6 ♕g5 31.♖xc6 fxg4 32.♖c4 gxh3 33.♕xg5 ♖xg5



In this completely hopeless position White lost on time. As a result I continued my 'black' series, achieving the best score on my board and gaining 14 rating points in 7 games!

NOTES BY

Alexander Motylev

SL 11.9 – D10
Pavel Eljanov
Alexander Motylev
Sochi 2010 (2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.b3!?

A rare variation, which has been employed several times by Artur Jussupow.

5...♗b4 6.♗b2 0-0 7.a3 ♗d6!?

By the ...♗f8-b4-d6 manoeuvre Black has effectively lost half a tempo – by playing ...♗d6 on the fifth move he could have reached this position with the white pawn on a2. Usually this is to White's advantage, of course, but, for example, in a position with hanging pawns on c5 and d5, the pawn on a3 may now be an advantage to Black. In general, as Peter Svidler likes to say, this manoeuvre is not altogether pointless.

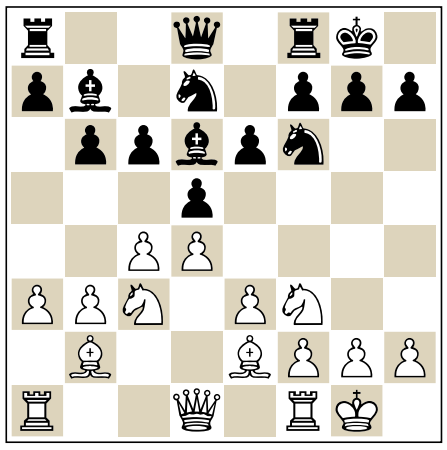
8.♘f3 ♘bd7 9.♗e2

In the event of 9.♗d3 Black carries out ...e6-e5 in favourable circumstances: 9...♕e7 10.0-0 e5.

9...b6 10.0-0

10.♕c2 ♗b7 would have transposed into an Anti-Meran with the pawn on a3 instead of a2.

10...♗b7



11.b4!?

White tries to exploit the position of the pawn on a3. After 11.♕c2 both 11...c5 and 11...♕e7 are possible, when the pawn on a3 does not benefit White.

11...♕e7 12.♕c2

The most natural. Nothing is given by 12.c5 ♗c7 followed by ...e6-e5.

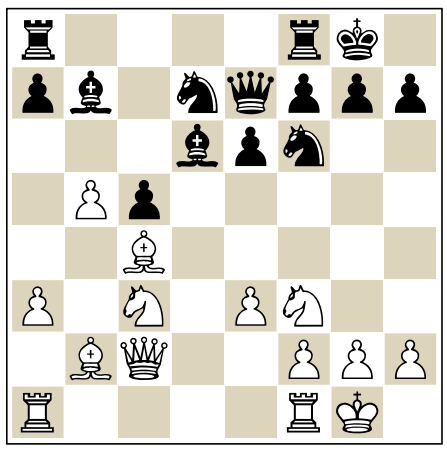
After 12.♕b3 dxc4 13.♗xc4 b5!? 14.♗d3 a5 Black also has satisfactory play.

12...dxc4 13.♗xc4 c5

13...a5 14.bxa5 (14.b5 c5) 14...♖xa5 15.a4 c5 was also possible, with roughly equal play.

14.dxc5 bxc5 15.b5!?

The only way to fight for an advantage. Now White obtains a long-term positional superiority on the queenside, and practically all endgames will be favourable for him. However, for the moment all the pieces are on the board, and the endgame is still a long way off.

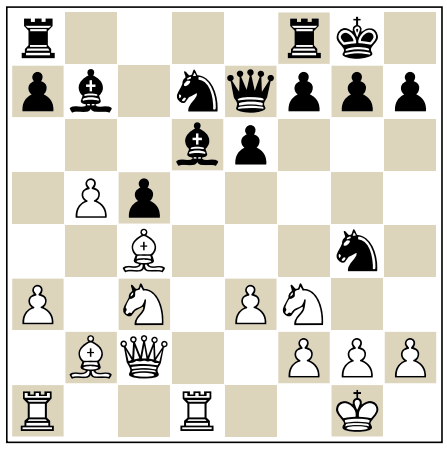


15...♘g4!

Black must act energetically.

16.♖fd1!

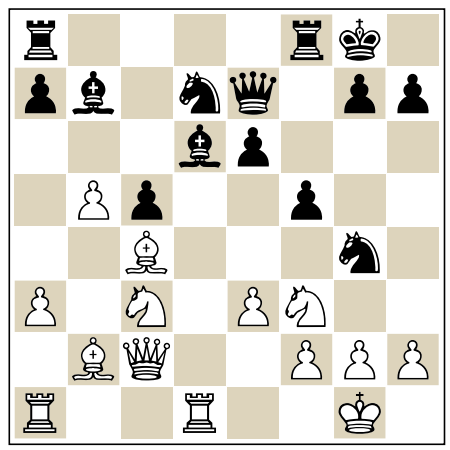
After thinking for about half an hour, Pavel made this strong move. Other continuations could hardly satisfy White: 16.♘e4 ♘xh2!, or 16.e4 ♘de5 (16...f5!?) 17.♘xe5 ♗xe5 18.h3 ♕h4, with the initiative.



16...♘de5?

Black loses the thread of developing his initiative. I did not want to leave White with the initiative after 16...♗xf3?! 17.gxf3 ♘xh2 18.f4 ♘f3+!. Here I did not much like Black's position after 19.♔f1, but after the unexpected 19...♕h4! 20.♖xd6 ♕h3+ 21.♔e2 ♕g4 the computer indicates a draw.

16...f5! was the strongest:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) The pawn-grabbing 17.♕b3 is dubious on account of 17...♔h8 18.♗xe6 ♗xf3 19.gxf3 ♘xh2 20.f4 ♖f6 21.♗d5 ♖g6+ 22.♗g2 ♕h4;

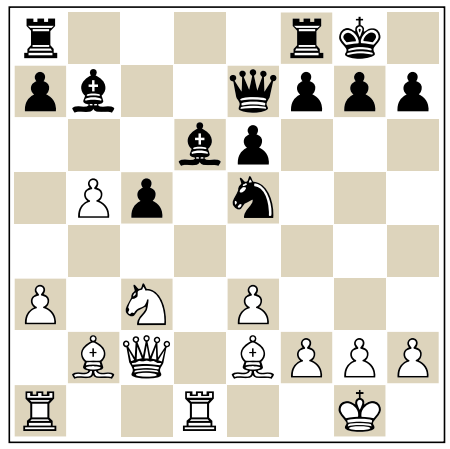
B) Black is slightly better after 17.h3 ♘ge5 18.♘xe5 ♘xe5 19.♘e2 ♘xc4 20.♕xc4 ♗d5;

C) 17.♘e2! ♗xf3 18.gxf3, and now 18...♘ge5, with a complicated game.

17.♘xe5 ♘xe5

From afar I wanted to take with the bishop: 17...♗xe5 and if 18.h3 to play 18...♕h4, but, unfortunately, it transpired that White can simply capture the knight: 19.hxg4 ♕h2+ 20.♔f1 ♗xg2+ 21.♔e2.

18.♗e2



18...f5

After 18...♕g5 Pavel pointed out the elegant 19.♘e4! ♕g6 20.♘f6+!.

19.f4! ♘g6

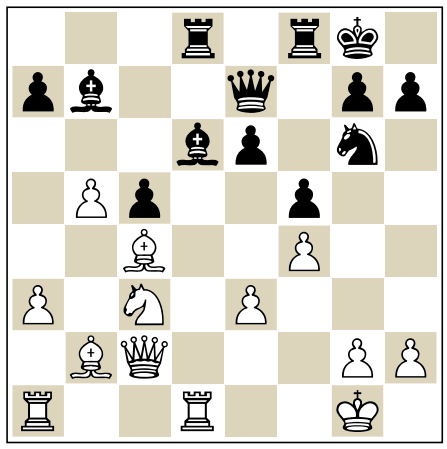
Reluctantly I had to retreat to g6, since 19...♘g4? 20.♗xg4! fxg4 21.♘e4 is simply bad.

20.♗c4

The position has clarified, and White has a small advantage. However, his king is still not too safely covered and the opening of the position may prove fatal for it. Here and later it would seem that the best way of consolidating the king's position is g2-g3, but to decide on it, without resorting to the help of a computer, you either need a very cool head or, on the contrary, a hot one ☺: 20.g3!? ♖ad8 21.♗c4 (21.♖d2).

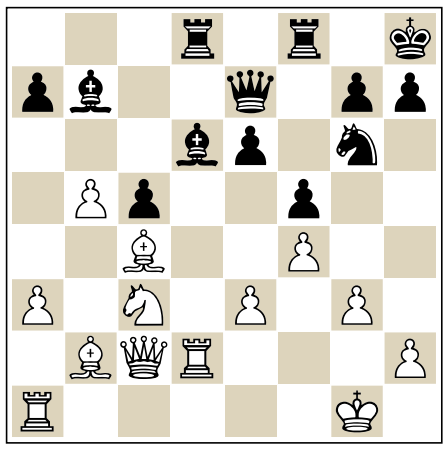
20...♖ad8

20...♘h4!? 21.♖d2 ♖ad8 22.♖ad1 ♗c7 came into consideration.



21.♖d2

After 21.g3! ♔h8 22.♖d2 Black has no way of developing his initiative, which means that White can gradually set about converting his positional advantage on the queenside:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 22...e5 runs into 23.♘d5 ♗xd5 24.♖xd5 exf4 25.exf4 ♕e3+ 26.♕f2 ♕e4 27.♕e2 ♕xe2 28.♗xe2 ♗xf4 29.♖ad1, with a white advantage;

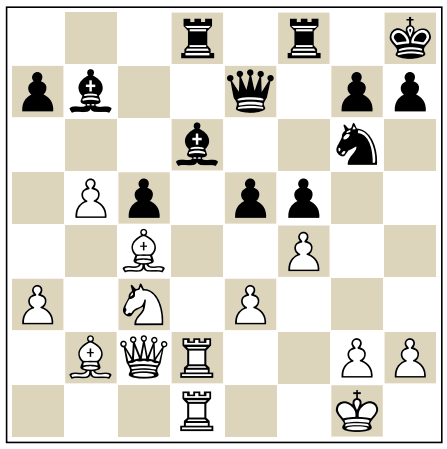
B) 22...♗a8 23.♖ad1 ♕b7 does not work in view of 24.e4;

C) 22...♖d7 23.♖ad1 ♗f3!? 24.♗e2 ♗a8 25.e4 ♖fd8;

D) 22...♖fe8!? 23.♖ad1 ♗f3 24.♖f1 ♗a8, when the position is closer to ⩲ than ±, and White must still play accurately.

21...♔h8 21...♘h4!?. **22.♖ad1** It was not yet too late to play 22.g3.

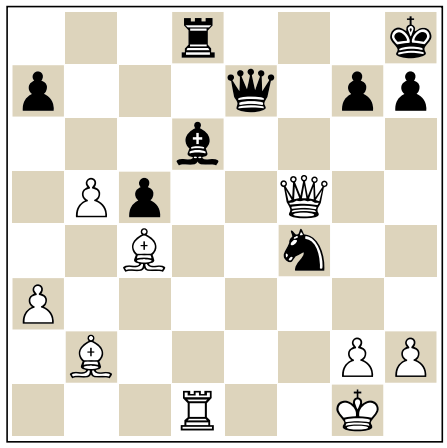
22...e5!



23.♗d5?

A serious mistake. Strangely enough, 23.♘d5 and even 23.g3 would still have retained the better chances for White.

Best is 23.♘d5! ♗xd5 24.♖xd5 exf4 25.exf4 ♘xf4 26.♖xf5 ♖xf5 27.♕xf5, and now:

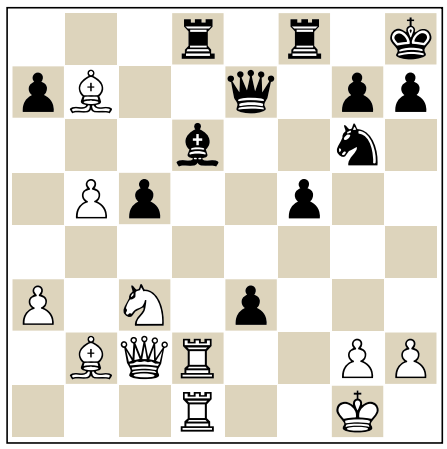


ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 27...♘e2+?! 28.♔h1 ♕h4 29.♗e5 ♘d4 30.g3 ♕xh2+ 31.♔xh2 ♘xf5 32.a4;

B) Or 27...♖f8 28.♕g4 ♗e5 29.♗xe5 ♕xe5 30.♕f3, and White is better.

23...exf4! 24.♗xb7 fxe3



25.♖d5?

The decisive mistake. It was es-

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MARK GLUKHOVSKY

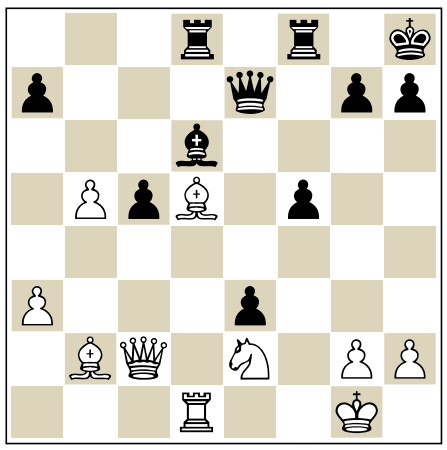
Fully concentrated Alexander Motylev sits at the board waiting for the rest of his team to arrive. Soon the Dagomys Hotel will be closed only to be opened three years from now as a five-star hotel for the 2014 Winter Olympics.

sential to play 25.♘d5! ♗xh2+!? 26.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 27.♔g1 exd2 28.♕xd2 f4!? 29.♕f2 f3 30.♕xh4 ♘xh4 31.♗e5!? (31.gxf3 ♘xf3+ 32.♔g2 ♖d6, and Black has the initiative), with a complicated game in which Black's chances are nevertheless better.

25...♘f4! 26.♘e2

White would also have lost after 26.♖xd6 ♖xd6 27.♖xd6 ♕xd6. Also bad was 26.♗c6 ♘xd5 27.♖xd5 (or 27.♗xd5 ♕e5 28.g3 f4 29.♘e2 ♕g5, winning) 27...♗e5, and Black should win.

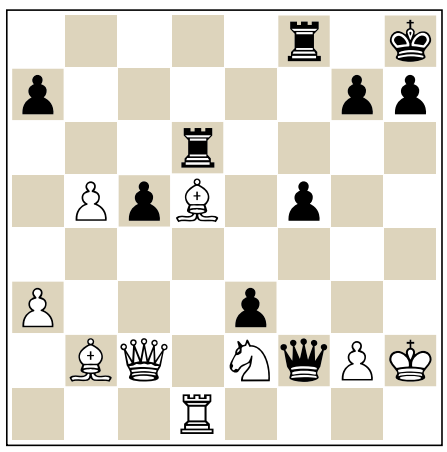
26...♘xd5 27.♗xd5



27...♗xh2+!

This sacrifice destroys White's position.

28.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 29.♔g1 ♕f2+ 30.♔h2 ♕h4+ 31.♔g1 ♕f2+ 32.♔h2 ♖d6!



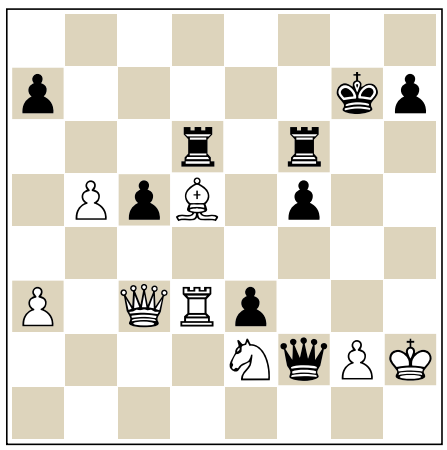
33.♗xg7+

The only move.

33...♔xg7 34.♕c3+ ♖ff6 35.♖d3

Both 35.♘g1 ♕h4+ 36.♘h3 e2 and 35.♘g3 ♕f4! also lose.

35...♕h4+ 36.♔g1 ♕f2+ 37.♔h2



37...f4! The last accurate move.

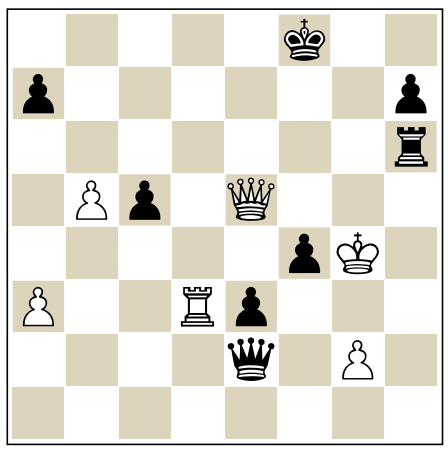
38.♕e5

If 38.♘g1 ♕g3+ 39.♔h1 ♕h4+ 40.♘h3 e2.

38...♔f8 39.♗e6

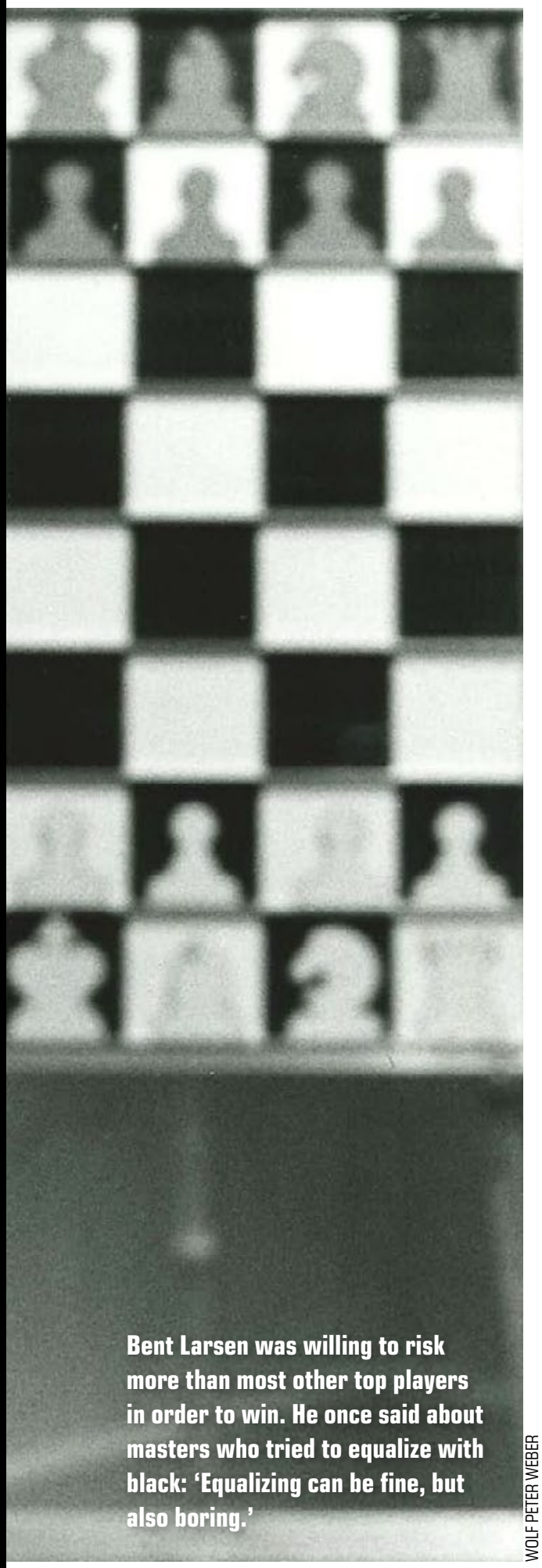
In the event of 39.♗f3 ♕h4+ 40.♔g1 ♖xd3 or 39.♗f7 Black simply captures the rook: 39...♕h4+ 40.♔g1 ♖xd3, and the checks do not give anything: 41.♕e8+ ♔g7 42.♕g8+ ♔h6 43.♕f8+ ♔g5 44.♕g7+ ♔f5, and wins.

39...♖h6+ 40.♗h3 ♖xh3+ 41.♔xh3 ♖h6+ 42.♔g4 ♕xe2+



White resigned. In the event of 43.♔xf4 Black wins most simply by 43...♖h4+ 44.g4 ♖xg4+ 45.♔f5 ♕xd3+ 46.♔xg4 ♕d4+.

The will to



Bent Larsen was willing to risk more than most other top players in order to win. He once said about masters who tried to equalize with black: 'Equalizing can be fine, but also boring.'

WOLF PETER WEBER

win

Bent Larsen was the most successful tournament player of his time, winning numerous tournaments ahead of all the leading players. In the course of his career he defeated all World Champions from Botvinnik to Karpov. On the occasion of his 75th birthday his countrymen **Peter Heine Nielsen**, **Dan H. Andersen** and **Thorbjørn Rosenlund** pay tribute to one of the most amazing careers in chess history.

Bent Larsen was born on March 4th, 1935 near Thisted, a small town in northern Jutland. By a strange coincidence, Aron Nimzowitsch died 12 days later. The Latvian grandmaster had lived in Denmark since 1922, and his death at only 46 meant that there was no one of comparable strength in Denmark during Larsen's rise to the world elite.

Bent Larsen learned to play chess in 1942, when he was confined to bed with a series of children's diseases. He joined a chess club in 1947, and in swift succession he became club champion, city champion, and provincial champion, usually with a 100 per cent score.

At 16 he had his international debut at the 1951 junior world championship in Birmingham, where he finished fourth (Ivkov won). He won his first Danish championship in 1954, and at the age of 19 he was the strongest player in Denmark, a position he kept for at least 35 years.

In the USSR a boy could go to the local pioneer palace and play chess against very strong players. The very best would continue to special programs and schools, and there would be strong tournaments and training sessions with grandmasters. In Denmark there was nothing of the sort. Larsen himself has dismissed the notion that it would have been better for his chess development to have been born in Moscow. He worked alone and felt comfortable with it.

One thing Denmark did have was world-class chess writing, represented by Aron Nimzowitsch and international master Jens Enevoldsen. Their highly individual kind of writing, with its emphasis on the intensity of the fight, was undoubtedly an inspiration for Larsen. He began very early to write for newspapers and

Skakbladet (the chess magazine of the Danish Chess federation), and together with simuls and lectures, this made it possible for him to carve out a professional career.

In Larsen's opinion, the biggest boost to his chess understanding came from annotating the games of the 1953 Candidates' Tournament in Zurich for *Skakbladet*. By the end of the year he felt confident that his understanding of the game was at grandmaster level, but he lacked practical playing strength.

At the Amsterdam Olympiad in 1954 he scored 71% and was rewarded with the title of International Master. The year after he defeated the Icelandic chess hero and future FIDE president Fridrik Olafsson in a match for the Nordic Championship. Then came the first great breakthrough, when he scored the highest percentage on Board 1 at the Moscow Olympiad in 1956. This gave him the Grandmaster title, a much more select title then, when there was only a handful of active grandmasters in the world. In the finals he defeated Gligoric in a classic game, and even the great Botvinnik had to fight with his back to the wall before his tenacious defence secured the draw.

Larsen studied engineering at the technical college in Copenhagen, and most people, including the officials of the Danish Chess Federation, wanted him to take his exam and get a steady job. Their reasons were probably a mixture of disdain for professional sports and a genuine feeling that a career as a professional chess player was not a good choice in the long run. Chess did not reward its professionals well. Carl Schlechter starved to death in 1918. Janowsky died poor and lonely in a rented room. Tartakower died a bitter man. Fifty years later Larsen smiles and says about his decision to become a professional that he did, indeed, spend most of the nights studying chess instead of engineering, but there never was a conscious decision. It just kind of happened.

SKAKBLADET

Mikhail Tal, Bent Larsen, Miroslav Filip and Boris Spassky at Copenhagen airport on their way to the 1957 Student World Championship in Reykjavik.

The years after the triumph in Moscow were difficult ones for him. His results were modest and his games were very uneven. Strategic masterpieces were followed by weak moves and strange defeats. He experimented and played sharp set-ups.

With hindsight you can see that this period was the difficult learning process which was a prerequisite for later greatness, something that many young masters give up in advance, perhaps afraid of losing their newly won prestige and high rating. Indeed, the historical ratings show that Bent Larsen slipped down the list, from no. 9 in the world in 1956 to no. 50 in 1963.

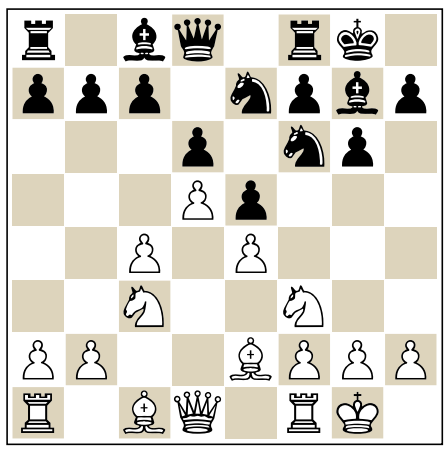
Then came the second breakthrough: the 1964 Interzonal Tournament in Amsterdam. Twenty-four players, five of them from the USSR. 1-4 Smyslov, Spassky, Tal and Larsen 17; 5. Stein 16½; 6. Bronstein 16. Larsen had a positive score against the Soviet stars and won famous games against Spassky and Bronstein.

In the Candidates' matches Bent Larsen first defeated Ivkov, 5½–2½. In the semi-finals he was defeated by the narrowest of margins by Tal: 5½–4½.

It was a great match between two uncompromising fighters, and the first game was probably a shock for the Russian side.

KI 2.2 – E99
Bent Larsen
Mikhail Tal
Bled Candidates' Match sf 1965 (1)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 0-0 5.♘f3 d6 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7

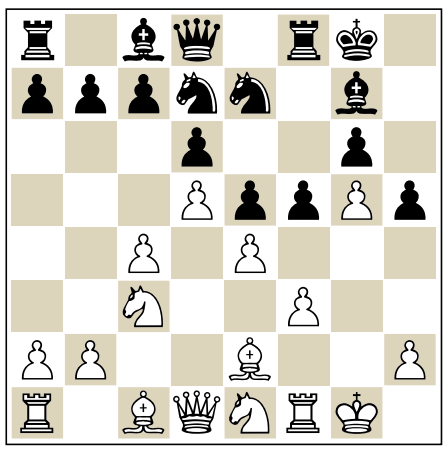


9.♘e1 Larsen's favourite move, despite diversifying in many ways later, most notably with 9.♔h1!?, one point being that Black's natural 9...♘h5 can be met by 10.♘g1 ♘f4 11.♗f3, followed by a later g3, forcing Black's knight back, as for example in the second game of Larsen's match against Curt Hansen in 1988.

9...♘d7 10.f3 f5 11.g4!?

A line which has recently regained popularity, but which in 1965 was only in its very early stages. White tries to nip Black's attack in the bud by blocking the structure on the kingside.

11...h5 12.g5



12...h4?!

After this game generally condemned, but a principled try to refute White's strategy. The pawn on g5 is now isolated and difficult to defend.

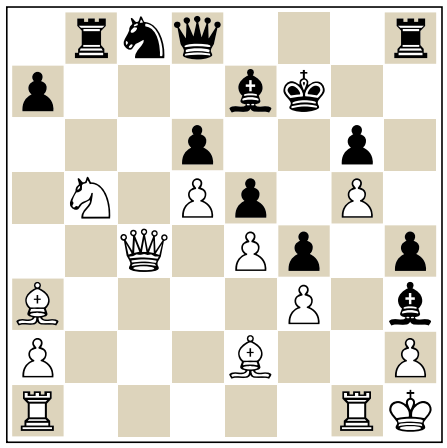
13.♘d3 f4 14.♔h1 ♔f7 15.c5!

A novelty. Black cannot comfortably take the pawn, as 16.♕b3 threatens d6+.

15...♖h8 16.♕b3 b6 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.♕a3 ♘c5 19.♘xc5 bxc5 20.b4 cxb4 21.♕xb4 ♗h3 22.♖g1 ♖b8 23.♘b5 ♘c8 24.♗a3 ♗f8

Play has proceeded logically, almost in a symmetrical fashion. White defends his weakness on the kingside, while at the same time opening up targets on the queenside. Black has defended well on the queenside, and is now ready to fulfil his strategic objective by pocketing the g5 pawn.

25.♕c4 ♗e7



26.♕c7!

White's strategy is deeper. Unlike Black, he does not try to defend his weakness, but instead exchanges the queens, removing Black's best defender. Then slowly but securely he will break through along the c-file.

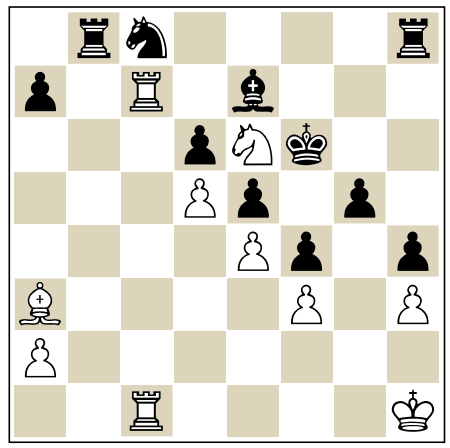
26...♕xc7 27.♘xc7 ♖h5 28.♗f1 ♗xf1?!

Keeping the bishop with 28...♗d7 would give some hope of controlling vital squares on the c-file, and thus would have been a better defensive try. White, however, has excellent compensation.

29.♖gxf1 ♖xg5 30.♘e6 ♖h5 31.♖ac1 ♔f6 32.♖c7 ♖h8 33.♖fc1 g5 34.h3

SKAKBLADET

Playing a simul during one of his U.S. tours. Bent Larsen smiles at the camera, the smiling lady is unidentified.



The position has crystallized. Black is a pawn up, but strategically lost. He has no active possibilities, and can only wait for White's breakthrough. Larsen has patience. First he must prevent all counterplay before the game is adjourned.

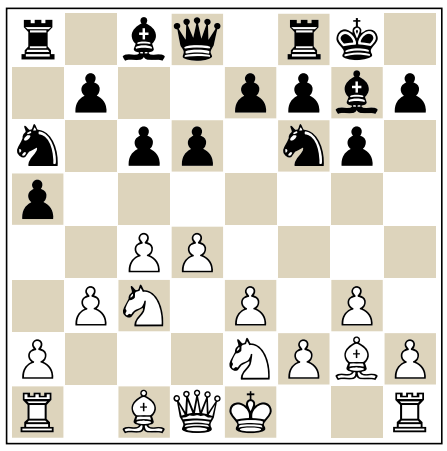
34...♖g8 35.♖7c6 ♔f7 36.♔g2 ♔f6 37.♔f1 ♖h8 38.♔e2 ♖g8 39.♔d3 ♖h8 40.♖c7 ♘b6 41.♖1c6 ♖hg8 The sealed move, but Tal resigned without further play. White wins in numerous ways, from the prosaic 42.♗xd6 to the flashy 42.♘f8!?. Black was held in an iron grip, and if you did not know the names of the players, you might think Petrosian was White.

In 1966 Bent Larsen defeated Efim Geller 5-4 in the match for third place in the Candidates' Tournament. This was the first time ever that a Soviet grandmaster had been defeated in a match by a player from outside the USSR.

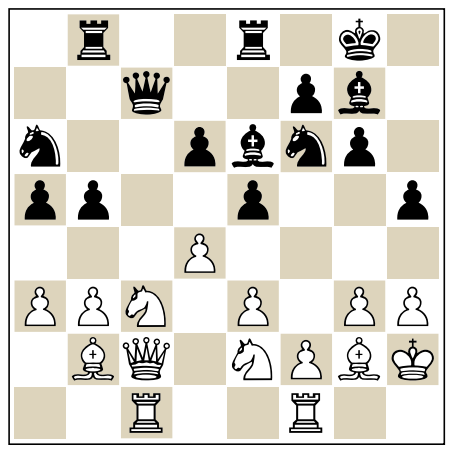
Later in 1966 there was the famous Piatigorsky Cup in Santa Monica: 1. Spassky 11½; 2. Fischer 11; 3. Larsen 10; 4-5. Unzicker and Portisch 9½; 6-7. Petrosian and Reshevsky 9; 8. Najdorf 8; 9. Ivkov 6½; 10. Donner 6. The world champion's modest result was partly due to his losing both games to Bent Larsen. In the first Larsen won with white, with a famous attack which included a queen sacrifice. Even more impressive was the second game.

KI 76.6 – E61
Tigran Petrosian
Bent Larsen
Santa Monica 1966

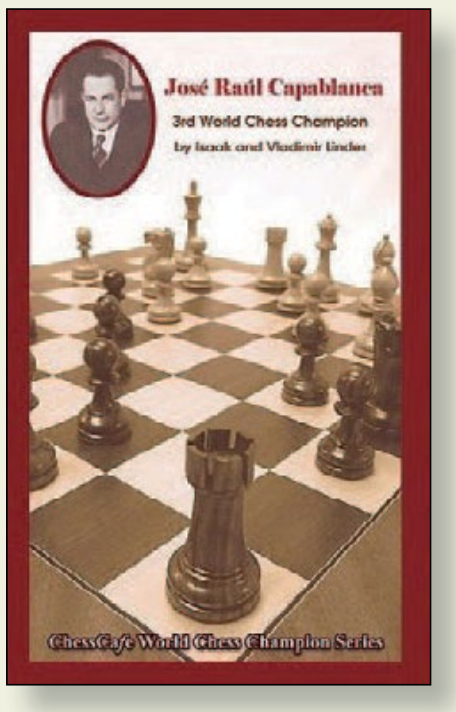
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 g6!?
Quite out of character for Larsen. The King's Indian is not an opening he has any belief in, and, as seen in the above game against Tal, he much prefers to be on the white side. In the USSR the King's Indian had been analysed thoroughly, and Petrosian had a very good score against it. But how do you beat Petrosian with black without taking risks?
3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.e3
A modest and solid line, but used three times by Botvinnik in his 1954 match against Smyslov, and Petrosian himself had played it against Spassky in his successful title defence.
6...c6 7.♘ge2 a5 8.b3 ♘a6



Smyslov and Spassky both played their knight to d7. Larsen stays flexible, keeping his option of playing on either side of the board open.
9.0-0 e5 10.♗b2 ♖e8 11.a3 ♖b8 12.h3 h5 13.♕c2 ♗e6 14.♔h2
Defending against a possible ...♕c8, but too prophylactic, even for the master. Now Black puts his queen on a better square.
14...♕c7! 15.♖ac1 b5 16.cxb5 cxb5



White has more control of the centre, but Larsen has more space on the flanks! The b3 pawn is fragile, and Petrosian takes further prophylactic measures to prevent Black attacking it via ...b4, opening the b-file.
17.♕d1 ♕e7 18.♘b1 ♗d7 19.♘d2 e4!
Grabbing space in the centre. Larsen now thinks White should have tried and change the trend of the game by fighting for the initiative with 20.d5 ♘c5 21.♖xc5!? dxc5 22.♘xe4, with decent compensation for the exchange.
20.♘f4 d5 21.♕e2
Again preferring solidity. 21.f3!?



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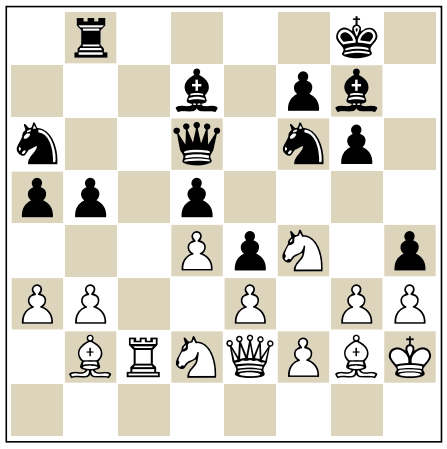
Bent Larsen and Bobby Fischer having fun during the 1966 Piatigorsky Cup. Behind them chess benefactors Jacqueline and Gregor Piatigorsky.

was the last chance for active counterplay.

21...♕d6 22.♖c2 ♖ec8 23.♖fc1 ♖xc2 24.♖xc2 h4!



The strategic battle has been won, yet breaking White's fortress still requires a lot of effort. As with Tal, Larsen has patience and prepares himself for a long battle. First he creates a weakness on g3, then he fixes the one on b3.

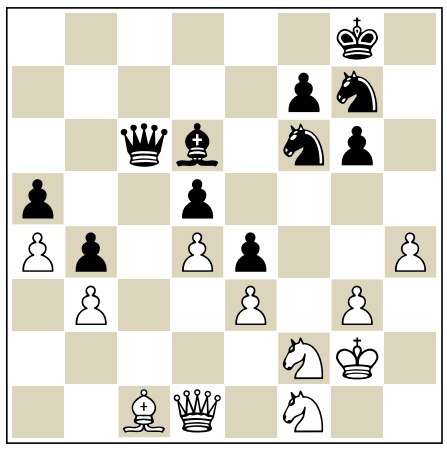
25.♘f1 hxg3+ 26.fxg3 b4 27.a4 ♖c8

Exchanging White's only well-placed piece.

28.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 29.h4

Not a pleasant choice, but in a bad position there are few good choices. Petrosian hopes that the exchange of bishops will compensate for the weakness of the g4-square and delay a black ...g5.

29...♘c7 30.♗h3 ♗xh3 31.♘xh3 ♗f8 32.♔g2 ♕c6 33.♕d1 ♗d6 34.♘f2 ♘e6 35.♗c1 ♘g7



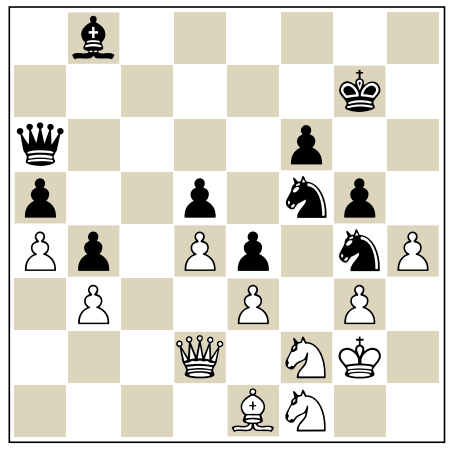
36.♗d2

36.g4!? was probably White's last chance, but it is understandable that Petrosian did not want to open the position. Larsen now proves that White's fortress is by no means impregnable.

36...♘f5 37.♔h3 ♕c8 38.♔g2 ♔g7 39.♘h1 ♘h6 40.♗e1 ♕a6 41.♘f2 ♘f5

Threatening 42...♕xf1+.

42.♕d2 ♗b8 43.♘d1 ♘g4 44.♔g1 f6 45.♔g2 g5 46.♘f2



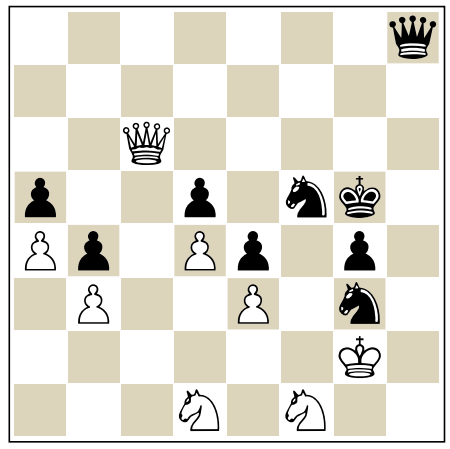
46...♘gh6!

Not allowing any exchanges. White's lack of space forces him to deploy some of his minor pieces to uncomfortable squares.

47.hxg5 fxg5 48.♘d1 ♔g6 49.♘h2 g4 50.♕c2 ♗d6 51.♘f1 ♘g8 52.♘h2 ♘f6 53.♘f1 ♔h5 54.♘h2 ♔g5 55.♘f1 ♘h5 56.♗f2 ♘f6 57.♗e1 ♘h5 58.♗f2 ♕a8!

Finally the decisive breakthrough. The black queen penetrates via h3, White is defenceless.

59.♗e1 ♕h8 60.♕c6 ♗xg3 61.♗xg3 ♘hxg3



Petrosian resigned, as 62.♘xg3 ♕h3+ wins instantly. Larsen's attacking win in the first round is better known, but it's quite telling that Larsen himself is prouder of this strategic win.

Bent Larsen's style was now universal. He had a deep theoretical knowledge, on which he based his new ideas and re-launching of old openings and variations. It is obvious from his comments and annotations that he was fascinated with chess history and the old masters.

He was willing to risk more than most other top players in order to win, and once said about masters who tried to equalize with black: 'Equalizing can be fine, but also boring.' Forcing his opponents to think for themselves from the beginning is an often used comment from his game annotations. His endgame technique was extremely good. In 1966 he outplayed world stars like Polugaevsky and Geller in endgames with a minute advantage.

In 1967 Bent Larsen went on his great world tour. In August he left Denmark, and when he returned it was December and Bent Larsen had won four strong international tournaments on three continents, ahead of the strongest Soviet players. In Havana ahead of Taimanov and Smyslov. In Winnipeg, Canada, with Darga ahead of Spassky and Keres. In the Interzonal in Sousse ahead of Geller, Kortchnoi and Gligoric. In Palma de Mallorca ahead of Botvinnik and Smyslov. When chess journalists voted on the first chess Oscar in 1967, Bent Larsen was the obvious choice.

The triumphs continued in 1968. First in Monaco, ahead of Botvinnik and Smyslov. In the quarterfinals of the Candidates' matches, Portisch was defeated 5½–4½.

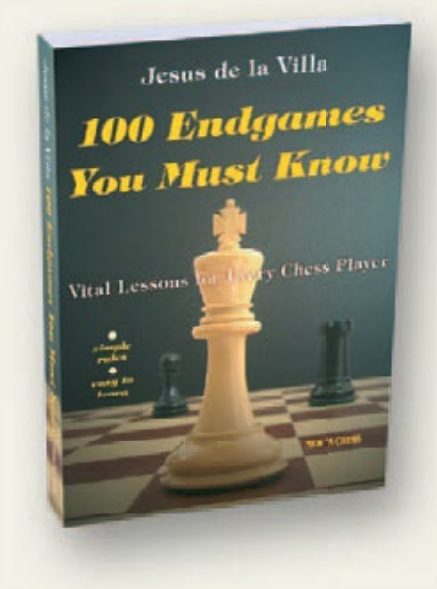
This was something totally new in chess. Not since the war had the Soviet players been shoved out of first places like this. The world championship had been Soviet property since 1948, and all matches had been internal affairs. But between matches there are tournaments where you can demonstrate your superiority. Between 1967 and 1970 the great tournament winner was Bent Larsen, and during the next decade he continued to win tournaments, ahead of the leading Soviet players. Fischer was in semi-retirement, and Larsen was the only westerner facing and defeating the Soviet players on a regular basis.

Bent Larsen never hid his ambition to become World Champion, and his results made it seem realistic at the time. The semi-final against Spassky in Malmö, Sweden, showed that Larsen's optimism, self-confidence and willingness to risk in order to win, which was so successful in tournaments, did not serve him well in a match against a great player like Spassky, who was in admirable mental balance and able to resist the Dane's attacks. In the first game of the match Spassky played the Exchange Variation of the Slav, and Larsen overreached in his attempt to win. He continued to press too hard, and Spassky won 5½–2½.

Larsen was soon back on track as a tournament winner. He won opens in the U.S. and Canada. Palma de Mallorca was that year's strongest tournament and a triumph for Larsen: he won ahead of Petrosian, Kortchnoi, Hort and the new world champion Spassky.

In the 'Match of the Century' in Belgrade in 1970 (USSR against the Rest of the World) Bent Larsen demanded to play on first board, with reference to his recent tournament victories, and to everybody's surprise Bobby Fischer consented to play second board.

The USSR won a narrow 20½–19½ victory, but lost on the first boards. Fischer beat Petrosian 3-1, and Larsen held the World Champion to 1½-1½ and defeated Leonid Stein in the last round. 2½–1½ on Board 1.



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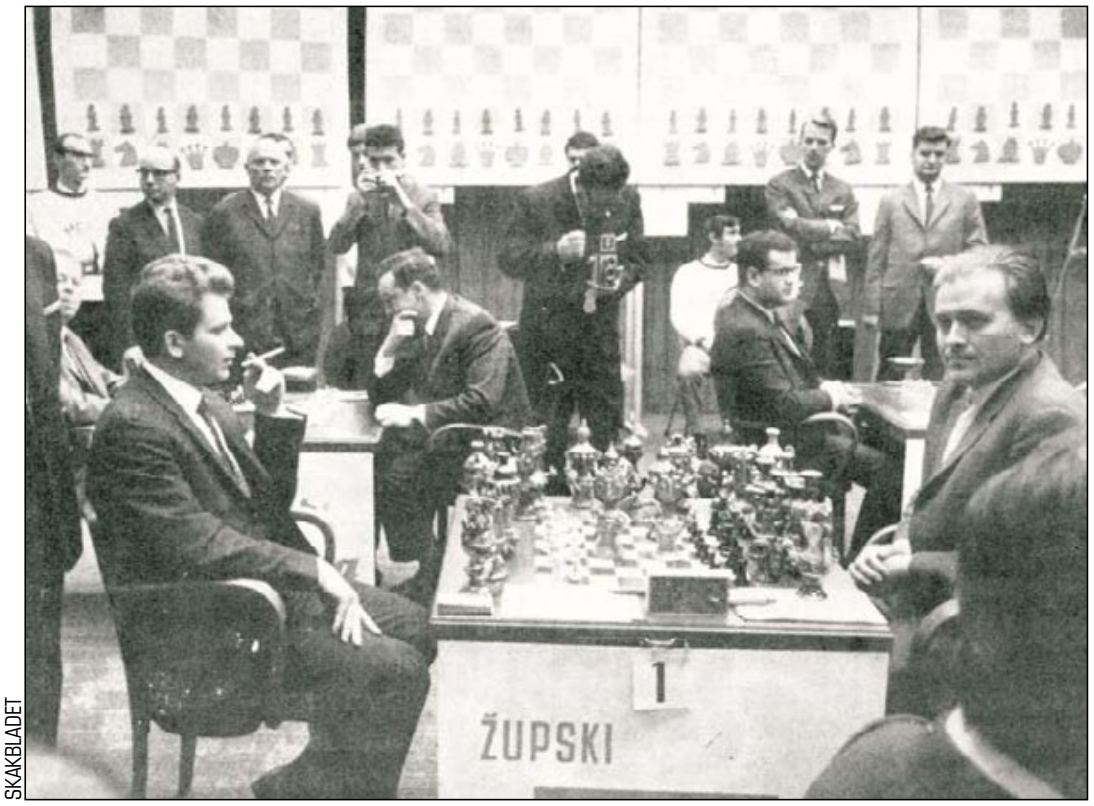
The best known game from the match is Spassky's Round 2 victory. A careless move from Larsen was immediately punished, and Spassky's brilliant win in 17 moves was rewarded with applause from the audience. Many years later Larsen called it his worst defeat.

In the next game he was Black. The Russian chess school would prescribe consolidating with a draw to recover from the shock. As we shall see, Bent Larsen's recipe was totally different.



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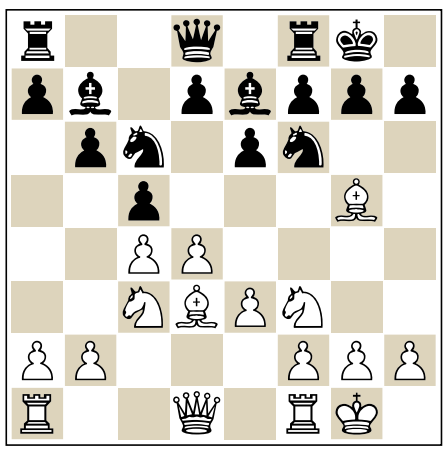
After a devastating loss in the second game against Spassky, trying to draw with black seemed the wise thing to do. But Larsen's recipe was totally different.

QI 2.12 – E12
Boris Spassky
Bent Larsen
Belgrade World vs USSR 1970 (3)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.♘c3 ♗b7 5.♗g5 ♗e7 6.e3 0-0 7.♗d3 c5 8.0-0 ♘c6!?

Larsen challenges Spassky with a move which he himself called 'hardly playable' in his commentary in *Skakbladet*. Hardly is the key word. Larsen says he never played lines he knew were bad, but always tried to look for ideas which put the maximum amount of pressure on his opponent, without caring that they also put a lot of pressure on himself.

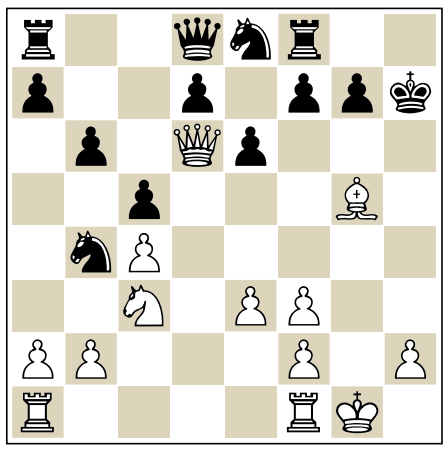


9.d5! The principled move, trying to refute Black's play.

9...♘b4 10.d6! ♗xd6 11.♗xh7+

11.♗xf6!? almost refutes Black's play, as 11...♕xf6 12.♗e4! wins a piece. But Black has lots of resources after 11...gxf6! 12.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 13.♕xd6 ♗xf3 14.gxf3 ♖g8+ 15.♔h1 f5, when his counterplay with ...♕h4 comes in time.

11...♔xh7 12.♕xd6 ♗xf3 13.gxf3 ♘e8!



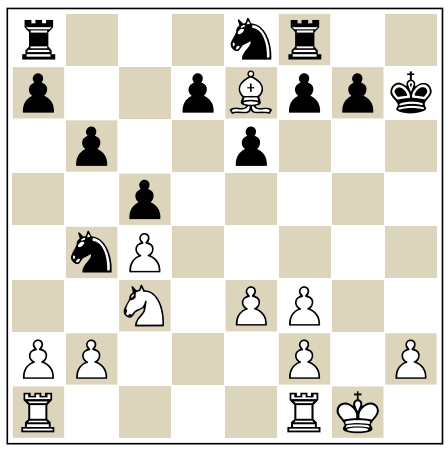
This move was planned when Larsen played 8...♘c6. Spassky now has to choose between three tempting options, always a difficult choice.

14.♕e7

14.♕xf8! comes close to refuting Black's concept: 14...♕xg5+ 15.♔h1 ♕h5 16.♖g1 ♕xf3+ 17.♖g2 ♘d3. Both players must have calculated at least till here, and concluded the obvious: that Black has excellent counterplay. However, there is the counter-intuitive 18.♔g1! (18.♖f1 ♘e5 threatens 19...♘g6, already leaving Black with the better chances). As Black cannot move his knight from e8 due to the threat on g7, he is unable to exploit White's almost trapped queen on f8: 18...♘e5 19.♖g3!, the point of the previous move, which unpinned the rook. White is better, although in a complex position.

14.♗xd8?!, taking the exchange, is the worst option, as Black has excellent compensation after 14...♘xd6 15.♗e7 ♘xc4 16.♗xf8 ♖xf8, with a pawn for the exchange and possibilities for playing for a win due to the strong pawn centre and his excellent knights.

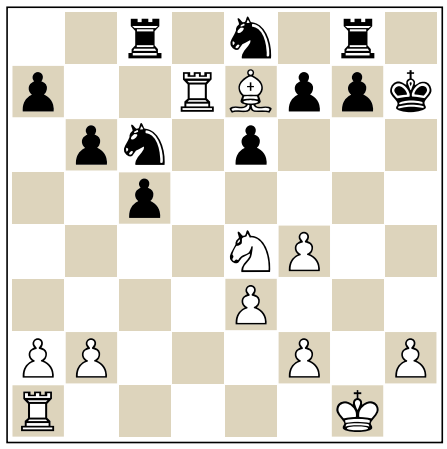
14...♕xe7 15.♗xe7



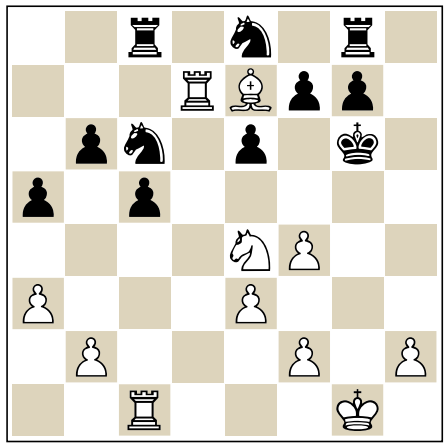
15...♖g8

Subtle. Too subtle, Larsen said later. The idea, that a later ...♘f6

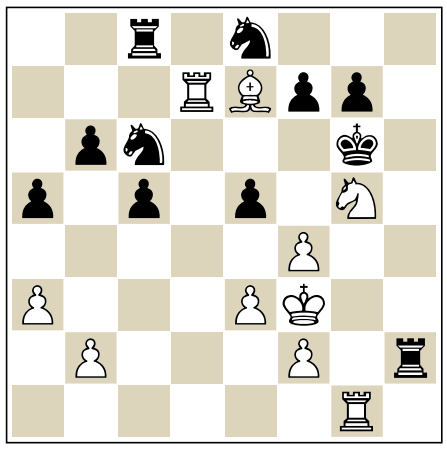
♗xf6 ...gxf6 is check, is logical, but never materializes.
15...♖h8! is natural and good.
16.♖fd1 ♘c6 17.♖xd7 ♘e5 18.♖b7 ♘xc4 19.♘e4 ♘a5 20.♖d7 ♘c6 21.f4 ♖c8



22.♖c1! Spassky also plays for a win. This move prevents liquidations, as 22...♘xe7 23.♖xe7 ♖c7 24.♖xc7 ♘xc7 25.b4! or 22...♖c7 23.♖xc7 ♘xc7 24.♗xc5! wins a pawn for White.
22...a5 23.a3 ♔g6



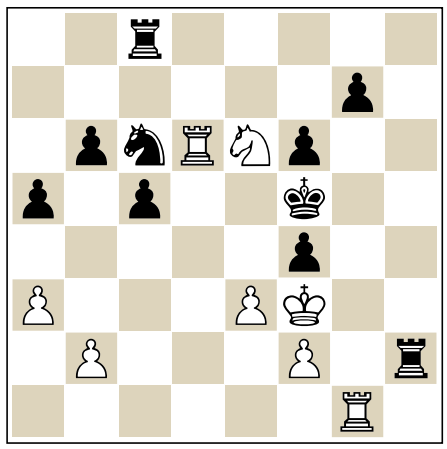
24.♔g2?!
Not a bad move, but Larsen writes he actually had no idea how to react after 24.♔h1!, when the security of the black king instantly becomes an issue: 24...♘xe7 25.♖xe7 ♖c7 26.f5+!? with the idea of 26...♔xf5? 27.♖xe8 keeps a white edge, although Black fights on with 26...♔h6!.
24...♖h8 25.♔f3 ♖xh2
Grabbing his chances as well as a pawn. Black now threatens to escape back to safety with his king via h7.
26.♘g5 e5 27.♖g1



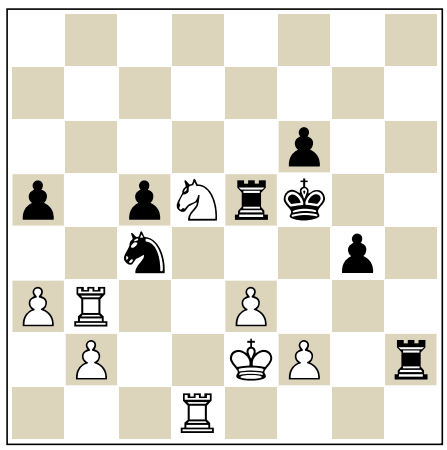
27...exf4! Fearless. The black king might be trapped without any place to hide, but where exactly is the mate? The computer upholds Larsen's point. There is no mate.
28.♗d6 ♘xd6 29.♖xd6+ f6 30.♘e6+ ♔f5!?

Chess summit with Russians Mikhail Botvinnik and Vasily Smyslov, Dutch grandmaster Hein Donner and Bent Larsen from Denmark.

30...♔h7 was indeed a safer alternative, but Larsen is playing to win.



31.♘xf4
31.♘xg7+ looks tempting, but there is no mate: 31...♔e5 32.♖e6+ (after 32.♖gd1?, 32...♘d4+! is necessary and strong – Black wins an exchange) 32...♔d5 33.♖d1+ ♔c4 34.♖e4+ ♔b3, and White runs out of checks, while Black's king is not just safe but can begin to gorge on White's queenside pawns.
31...♘e5+ 32.♔e2 ♖e8 33.♖xb6 ♘c4 34.♖b3 g5 35.♘d5 ♖e5 36.♖d1 g4
Larsen has been down to his last minutes since move 30 and now has less than one minute left. Spassky has five minutes.



37.♔f1??
A fatal blunder. The balance of the game had shifted, and White was under pressure, but his position was defensible.
Larsen gives 37.♖g1! as best, the point being 37...a4 38.♖b8!, which saves White due to the tactical

trick 38...♖xd5 39.e4+! ♔xe4 40. ♖xg4+, winning back the piece.
37...♖h1+ 38.♔e2 ♖xd1
White resigned.

This was Spassky's first defeat as World Champion. Rather than risk a defeat for the World Champion in the match, the Russian officials decided to let Leonid Stein play the last game.

After this 'Match of the Century' Larsen won his traditional opens in the U.S. and Canada. Then came another triumph: first place in the extremely strong tournament in Vinkovci, ahead of Bronstein, Hort, Gligoric and Petrosian.

Everything was shaping up to the battle for the world championship. Bobby Fischer triumphed in the Interzonal Tournament in Palma de Mallorca 1970, winning ahead of Larsen, Geller and Hübner.

In the following year Bent Larsen introduced the Modern Meran and defeated Wolfgang Uhlmann 5½–3½. The semi-final against Bobby Fischer in Denver 1971 showed the same problems as against Spassky in Malmö three years earlier: Larsen overreached playing for a win and disastrously lost all six games.

After the match in 1968 Larsen had been criticized for refusing to have a second. It should have been obvious that Larsen always worked alone and would have had little use for a second to help him with preparation and analysis. But he could have used someone to negotiate the location and other conditions for the match with Fischer.

It was a bitter defeat, and it was probably small consolation to Bent Larsen that he wrote an excellent book about the match on Iceland. But he rose from his defeat and began to win a string of strong tournaments again: Teesside 1972, ahead of Ljubojevic and Portisch, Hastings 1972/73, ahead of Uhlmann and Hartston, Manila 1973, ahead of Ljubojevic and Kavalek, New York 1974, ahead of Browne, Orense 1975, ahead of Ljubojevic and the new Scandinavian star Ulf Andersson.

The Interzonal in Biel in 1976 was a triumph. Larsen won, ahead of Petrosian, Portisch, Tal and a host of other stars. Bent Larsen is still the only player to have won three Interzonals. In the Candidates' matches he was stopped by Portisch, who won 6½–3½.

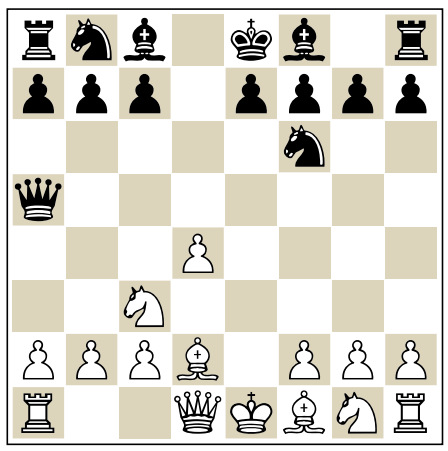
At one point Bent Larsen must have realized that the dream of playing for the world championship was over. He was still intensely ambitious to win games and tournaments, but it is very likely that new World Champion Anatoly Karpov gave Larsen's career and desire to work on chess a new lease of life. Karpov was the most active and convincing champion since Alekhine and won a series of tournaments to match Larsen's results from the 1960s. Larsen wanted to measure himself against the best of the new generation, to win games against Karpov and win a tournament ahead of him.

Bent Larsen did win two remarkable games against Karpov: Montreal 1979 and Tilburg 1980, both times with black. In Montreal it was with the Scandinavian, which was very rarely seen in top level chess.

Bent Larsen shows a game from his most remarkable result ever. At the 1979 Clarin tournament he finished 3 points ahead of Spassky, Najdorf, Miles and Andersson.

SD 11.5 – B01
Anatoly Karpov
Bent Larsen
Montreal 1979

1.e4 d5!?
A provocation, but if us Scandinavians did not play it, who would?
2.exd5 ♕xd5 3.♘c3 ♕a5 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗d2



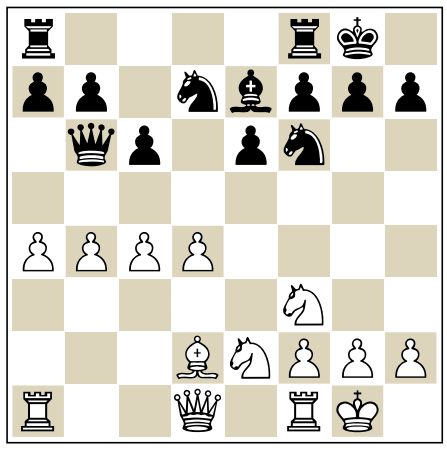
Larsen calls this move unusual, yet later it became the preferred move of both Kramnik and Kasparov!

5...♗g4!?

Interesting from a psychological point of view. Larsen says 5...c6 is most likely best, but that he thought Karpov at the time had a tendency to give himself a bad bishop!

A modern way of responding to Black's provocation would be 6.f3!?, trying to attack Black before he manages to set up a solid structure. But Karpov stays true to his style.

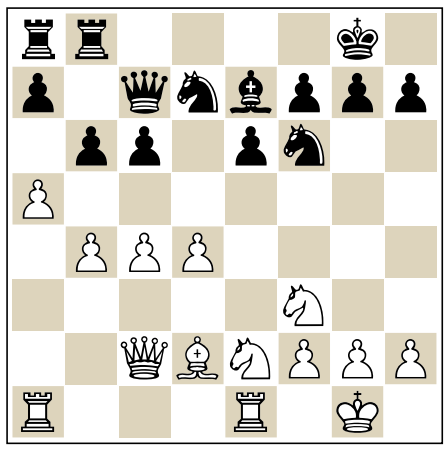
6.♗e2 ♗xe2 7.♘cxe2 ♕b6 8.♘f3 ♘bd7 9.0-0 e6 10.c4 ♗e7 11.b4 0-0 12.a4 c6



As often, Larsen is not afraid of giving his opponents what they like. White has considerably more space and a harmonic position. But Black is solid and dreams of claiming that the pawns on b4 and d4 will appear as weaknesses as the game progresses.

13.♕c2 ♕c7 14.♖fe1 b6 15.a5 ♖fb8!?

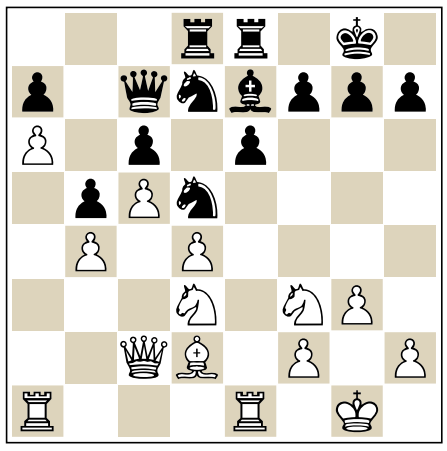
Trying to tempt Karpov.



16.a6!?

And succeeding. Black's last move now looks to be just misplacing the rook, but the structure has radically changed.

16...b5! 17.c5 ♘d5 18.♘c1 ♖e8 19.♘d3 ♖ad8 20.g3

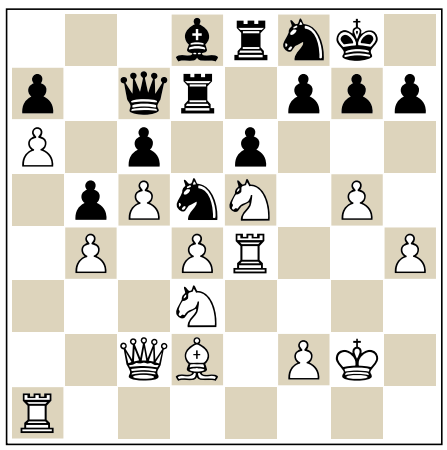


A very complex position. White has much more space, and good places for all his pieces except the bishop. Black's position is solid, and should he survive White's attempt to squash him with his space, it has potential due to the white weaknesses and the bad bishop. Both players were certainly happy with their position at this point!

20...♗f6 21.♖e4 ♘f8 22.h4 ♖d7 23.♔g2 ♖ed8

Hinting at ideas like 24...♘e7, attacking d4. Karpov claims more space and creates further weaknesses.

24.g4 ♖e8! 25.g5 ♗d8 26.♘fe5



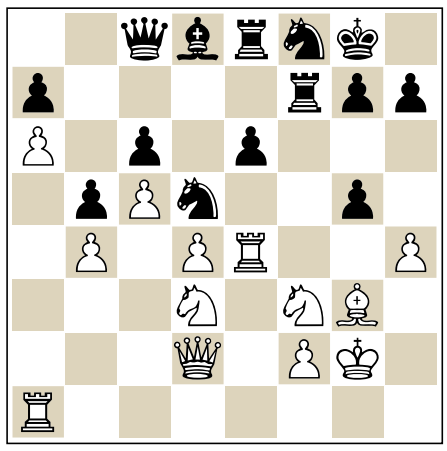
26...♖de7

Looks clumsy, but Black's position has potential, and as White has no way of striking immediately, Black will be in time to regroup.

27.♗f4 ♕c8 28.♗g3 f6 29.♘f3 ♖f7 30.♕d2

Larsen writes that it's obvious that Karpov thinks that he is better, and that the next move surprises him. Can Black really weaken the e5-square like that?

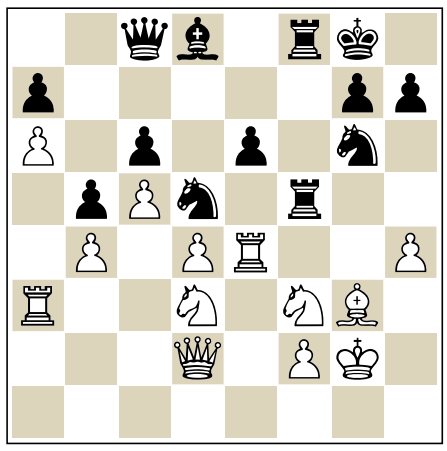
30...fxg5!?



31.♘xg5?

Karpov errs immediately. 31.hxg5! ♘g6, and an equal yet complex battle is ahead, since White cannot really exploit the e5-square, as after 32.♘fe5 ♘xe5 33.♘xe5 ♖f5! Black threatens the g5 pawn and is ready for ...♗c7.

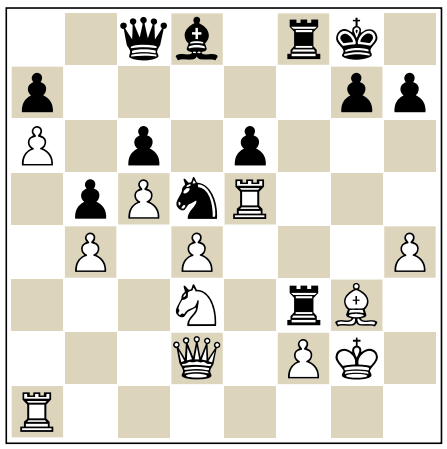
31...♖f5 32.♖a3 ♘g6 33.♘f3 ♖ef8



White's position has deteriorated considerably. The weaknesses are still there, but Black's pieces have all been transferred to excellent squares, attacking White's position. White is simply overstretched.

34.♘fe5 ♘xe5 35.♖xe5 ♖f3! 36.♖a1?

Missing a combination, but it was already too late.



36...♗xh4! 37.♕e2 ♗xg3 38.fxg3 ♕d7 39.♕xf3 ♖xf3 40.♔xf3 ♘xb4! A decisive last point. **41.♖d1 ♕xd4 42.♖e4 ♕d5 43.♘f2 ♕h5+ 44.♔g2 ♘d5 45.♖xe6 h6!** Black creates a safe haven for his king at h7, before breaking White's resistance. **46.♖d3 ♔h7 47.♖f3 b4 48.g4 ♕g5 49.♔g3 ♕c1 50.♘h3 ♕c4 51.g5 h5 52.♖e8 h4+ 53.♔g2 b3 54.♖b8 ♕e2+ 55.♘f2 ♘e3+** White resigned.

In 1979, at the age of 44, Bent Larsen won his most remarkable tournament victory. In the second Clarin tournament in Buenos Aires he finished first with 11 points. 2-5 Spassky, Najdorf, Miles, Andersson 8! Nine wins and four draws is astonishing for such a strong tournament, and Bent Larsen defeated both his old rivals Spassky and Petrosian. The year after, both the World Champion and young Western star Jan Timman also came to Buenos Aires. Bent Larsen won Clarin 1980 with 9½ points. 2-3 Timman and Ljubojevic 9. ... 5. Anatoly Karpov 7½!

Buenos Aires was obviously a good place to be. Bent Larsen had met Laura Beatriz Benedini in the Argentinean capital, and in 1982 he moved to Buenos Aires (with Laura!) where he has stayed since.

There were still some good tournaments left for Bent Larsen. In Niksic he took second prize, behind Kasparov but ahead of Spassky and Portisch. At the Nimzowitsch Memorial in Naestved in 1985 he shared first place with Vaganian and Browne, and a match in 1988 against rising star Curt Hansen was won 3½-2½.

Nobody wins forever, and at the Danish championship in 1991 it was obvious that Larsen was not well. He had been diagnosed with diabetes, and his health and results improved after treatment. In 1993 chess players in Copenhagen had a very enjoyable time when Bent Larsen defeated the chess computer Deep Blue 2½-1½. As he said at the time: 'You should not play computers in tournaments, but in laboratories and circuses. I suppose this is a mixture of both.'

Bent Larsen has always worked alone, but from the very beginning he has been willing to share. For many years he gave lectures and played innumerable simuls at the chess camps of Danish School Chess. His charisma and his energy are such that he has been able to fascinate and captivate all audiences, from school children to radio listeners or to high level managers. Garry Kasparov tried to persuade him to run for FIDE president. Two political parties have offered him safe constituencies to run for the Danish Parliament.

But Bent Larsen wanted to play chess, and write. His chess writing is among the best, combining analysis with humour and psychological understanding of the fight, most notably in his classic game collection *50 Selected Games*, from 1968. But there is much more. He is one of the great teachers of chess, with numerous works directed at the general club player as well as inspiring the very best. The first chess book that Magnus Carlsen read was Bent Larsen's *Find planen* (Find the plan).

Now he is more frail. The seemingly limitless energy that has astounded people for five decades has ebbed. He speaks more slowly, but his words are precise and backed by a memory of astonishing clarity and breadth. And every day he is at the chess board, as he has been for almost every day since those days in the winter of 1942 when he learned the rules of the royal game.

PETER HEINE NIELSEN

January 2010. Bent Larsen at his home in Buenos Aires. 'He speaks more slowly, but his words are precise and backed by a memory of astonishing clarity and breadth.'

What's in a name?

The British love history and tradition and they are rightly famous for their typical sense of humour. Perhaps that's why the UK's premier chess league has teams with names as 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Poisoned Pawns', 'South Wales Dragons' or 'The Full Ponty'. Over the past seventeen years the Four Nations League, better known as the 4NCL, has grown with leaps and bounds and these days numerous GMs from the UK and abroad take part. **Luke McShane**, top player of this year's champions Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher gives an impression of the 2009/10 season.

They grow up so fast, don't they? I'm old enough to dimly remember the early years of the Four Nations Chess League (4NCL). Since its inception in 1993/4 with just a single division, it has reached an impressive size. There are now 16 eight-board teams in the top two divisions, and 32 in the third division, as well as a junior 4NCL for Under 18s, 14s, 11s and 9s.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of the 4NCL is the way the league takes place. Although played over several weekends, rather than all in one go, all teams play at the same venue. (This is at least true of the top two divisions, although to have everyone together is no longer feasible.) So each weekend is a chance to catch up with friends from around the country, and that keeps players keenly coming back.

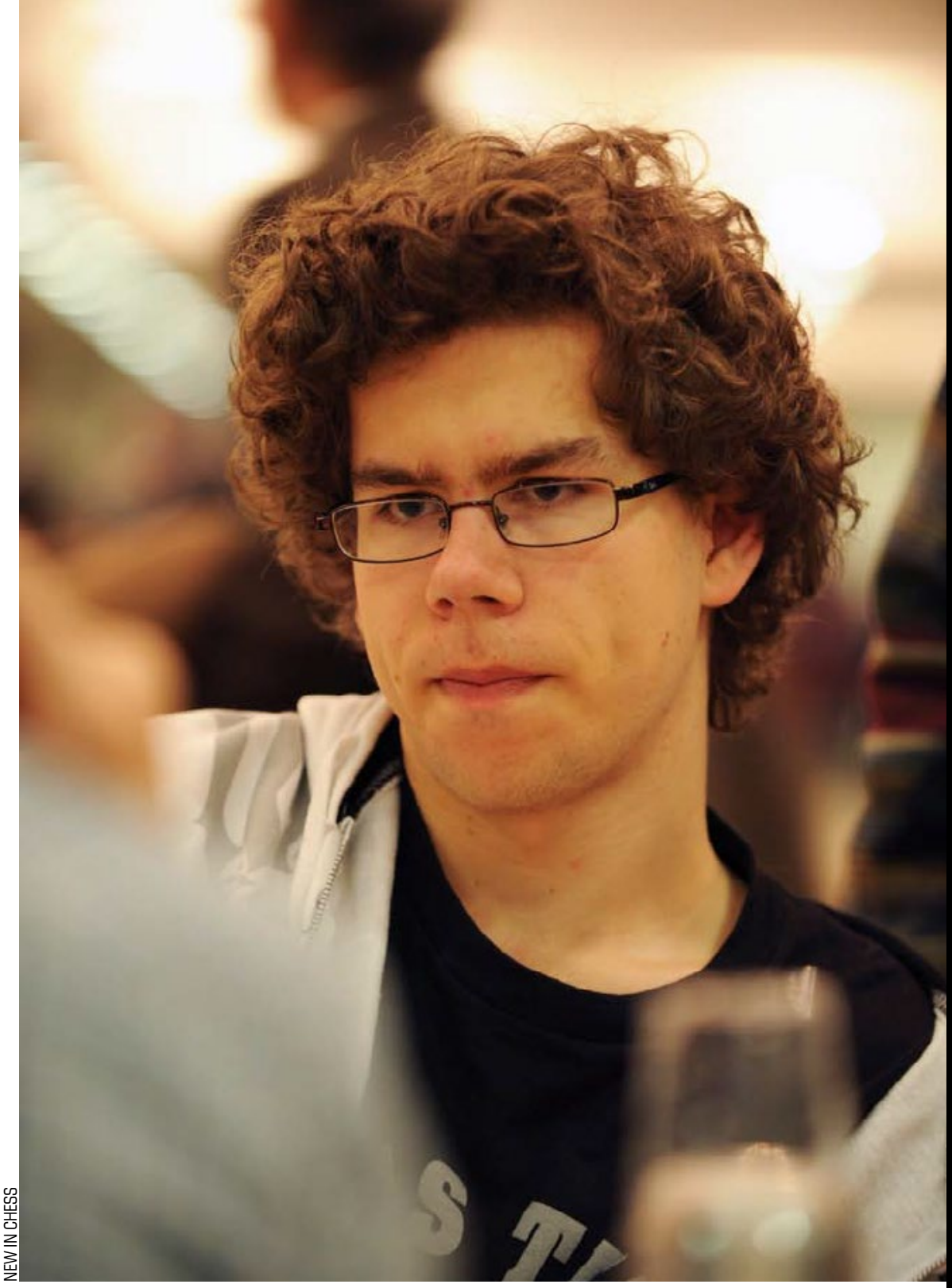
Thankfully, this season's dates managed not to clash with Eyjafjallajökull's outburst, so each weekend saw a decent contingent of players arriving from abroad, mostly from Europe. Domestic snow threatened to cancel the January weekend, but cleared just in time to allow things to go ahead as planned. The organisers seem to have things very much under control. The well designed website (www.4ncl.co.uk) speaks volumes, and the DeVere Venues and Barcelo Hotels provided excellent surroundings for the various league weekends.

Apparently a little trend was initiated as the league developed, when the confidently named teams Invicta Knights and Midland Monarchs were among the early winners. Nowadays this manifests itself in a splendid collection of team names scattered throughout the divisions. These include the decadent 'Sambuca Sharks', the Caissa-worshipping 'Poisoned Pawns' and the rather cheeky team in the third division calling itself 'The Full Ponty'. (At the risk of explaining a joke, Pontypridd is in Wales and the film *The Full Monty* was a comic film about a male striptease act).

At the more genteel end of the naming spectrum is 'Pride and Prejudice', which, with Michael Adams leading a team of mostly grandmasters, was always going to be a strong contender for the Division 1 title this season. Their main competition would be my own team, WGHK, which was born out of a successful union of the Wood Green and Hilsmark Kingfisher teams a couple of seasons ago. Under Brian Smith's able captaincy, the team in various guises had won the league four times before. Brian has a certain flair for surprises. All teams are obliged to field at least one female player in each match, so a few years ago he turned this on its head by fielding a very strong team of seven, along with a token male, who turned out to be none other than Alexey Shirov.

Although not quite on the same scale of astonishment, I had no idea until I sat down at the board for our crucial match in Round 4 against Pride and Prejudice that we would be joined by Etienne Bacrot on top board. He had white against Adams, but went down in a distractingly interesting battle which Mickey agreed to annotate (below).

Jon Ludvig Hammer made up for this on second board with his win over Stewart Haslinger, but Harriet Hunt notched up another win for Pride and Prejudice, beating Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant. That left us trailing after the time control, but with some promising positions, and Nick Pert duly converted his ending against Florian Grafl. The rest, including my own game against Jonathan Rowson, were drawn, but not without some drama. In the final game to finish, Alex Baburin had been outplaying Mark Hebden for a very long time, and most had counted on that being decisive until Mark's resourcefulness in the seventh hour earned him a draw and a 4-4 result for the team.



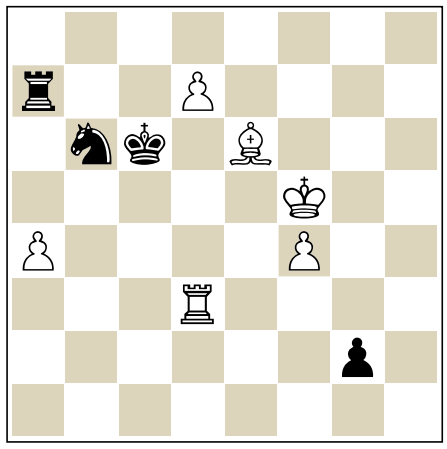
NEW IN CHESS

Scoring 5/5 Norway's Jon Ludvig Hammer could not have done better for 4NCL champions Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher.

Neck and neck on match points, and with both teams continuing to win their matches, the final three day Bank Holiday weekend looked like a race for game points to decide the title. To this end, Pride and Prejudice added David Howell to their line-up, and Jon Ludvig Hammer joined Wood Green again. Teams in the top division are rather disparate in strength. Besides the top teams I have described, there are many amateur teams, not all of which can field titled players on the top boards (though it should be mentioned that the 4NCL has also provided valuable norm opportunities for many players over the years). I hope the Barbican team won't mind being described as an amateur team, for they are an extremely strong one, and their result against Pride and Prejudice was brutally professional. With an Elo average of 2398, 123 points below that of their opponents (2521), their 6-2 result was utterly against the odds, and makes for a team performance above 2700 in that match. Mark Ferguson, Sam Collins and John Cox won their games in style against, respectively, Glenn Flear, John Emms and Harriet Hunt, while Jonathan Parker's queen and rook also tracked down David Howell's wandering king in a marathon game. Since we faced them in the final round, a repeat performance would have won Barbican the title and the league. It wasn't to be. Andrew Greet's win against Ingrid Lauterbach helped him to achieve a GM norm, and in the end WGHK won the match by a convincing margin and took the trophy for the 2009/10 season. The Dunworth Trophy, which is awarded to the winning team, is named in recognition of the 4NCL's founder, Chris Dunworth. Ludvig Hammer also won his last game against Matthew Turner. This turned his score for the season into 5/5 by the end of

the weekend, so I'm delighted that his annotations can be found below as well.

Some highlights from the games can be found below, but I felt a bit of a lowlife after pulling off this swindle against Stuart Conquest. I had been outplayed in a Grünfeld endgame and reached a truly miserable position by move 30. After move 40 I was 'only' a clear passed pawn down and Stuart proceeded to close in on the win until we reached this position:



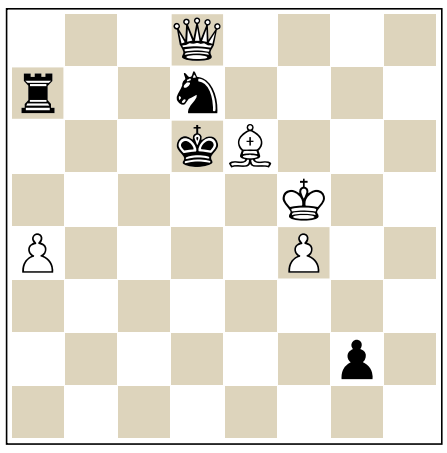
Conquest-McShane
position after 66...g2

Since the clocks were running down and pawns were on the seventh rank, I was hoping for a miracle, but I wasn't quite sure how, since the win is straightforward enough, e.g. 67.d8♕ g1♕ 68.♖d6+ ♔b7 69.♖xb6+! ♕xb6 70.♕c8 mate. At some stage I noticed that another plausible continuation might give me some chances, and sure enough he played it!

67.♖d6+?? ♔xd6 68.d8♕+ ♘d7!

MARK HUBA

A relieved Luke McShane: 'At some stage I noticed that another plausible continuation might give me some chances, and sure enough he played it!'



An amazing configuration of pieces. The hero on g2 saves the day, as 69.♕g5 runs into 69...♖a5+, and 69.♕g8 ♖a5+ 70.♔e4 ♘f6+ also loses for White. It is no less fortunate a detail that the promoted queen on g1 defends the rook on a7 in what follows, and doesn't herself drop off to a skewer or discovered check. Curiously, I can't see any other square that would work for my king either.

69.♗xd7 g1♕ 70.♗e6+ ♔c6 71.♕d5+ ♔b6 72.♕b5+ ♔c7 73.♕e5+

With something like 73.a5 White might have an obscure way to keep playing for a win. But with the clocks as they were, that wasn't going to happen in practice, and a perpetual soon appeared.

73...♔b6 74.♕b8+ ♔c6 75.♕b5+ ♔c7 76.♕c4+ ♔d6 77.♕d5+ ♔e7 78.♕e5 ♕b6 79.♕g7+ ♔d6 80.♕e5+ Draw.

The Italian Game - "Killing them softly!"

A White Repertoire against 1...e5

by GM Stefan Kindermann

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NOTES BY

Jon Ludvig Hammer

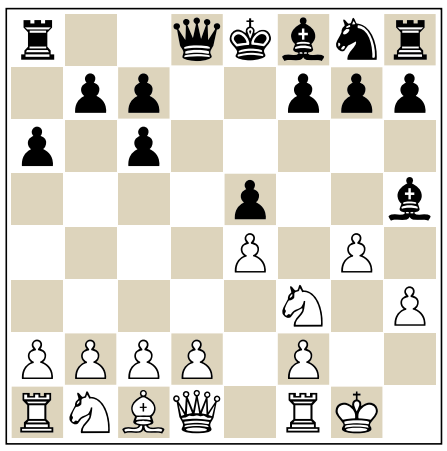
RL 8.8 – C68
Matthew Turner
Jon Ludvig Hammer
4NCL 2009/10 (11)

The season's finale is always exciting, especially when the two teams facing each other are the two top teams in the league! The winner of this match (between Barbican and Hammer's team of Wood Green – ed.) would be the winner of the 4NCL! Therefore, understandably, I really wanted to win my game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗xc6 dxc6 5.0-0 ♗g4 6.h3 ♗h5

I want to win!

7.g4

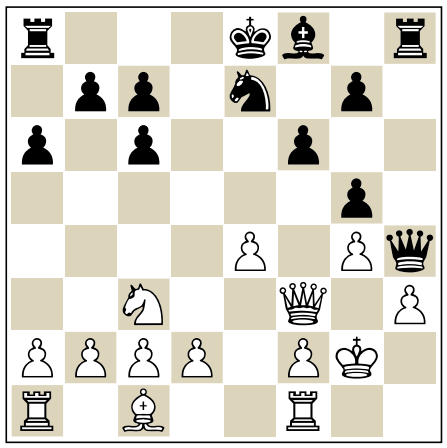


And Turner picks up the gauntlet! A brave decision, but in hindsight Turner might have wished he'd played something else.

7...♗g6 8.♘xe5 ♕h4 9.♕f3 f6 10.♘xg6 hxg6 11.♔g2 g5

Black is a pawn down, but he hopes to create some play on the kingside.

12.♘c3 ♘e7



13.e5

Matthew wants to open the centre, but Black's king is perfectly safe. It would've been better to play 13.d4 ♘g6 14.♗e3 to develop some pieces, but Black seems to have good play here as well.

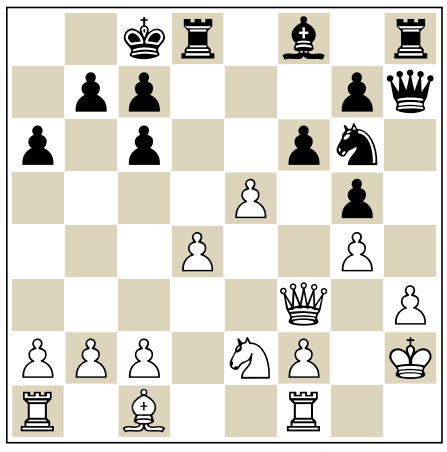
13...♘g6 14.d4 0-0-0

Black has a good position now. White's position is quite difficult already, especially in practical play.

15.♘e2 ♕h7

I thought I could do better than the alternative 15...fxe5 16.♖h1 ♘f4+ 17.♗xf4 exf4, when White is worse but Black's queen is offside and White might manage to manoeuvre his knight to f3 via g1.

16.♔h2



16...♘h4

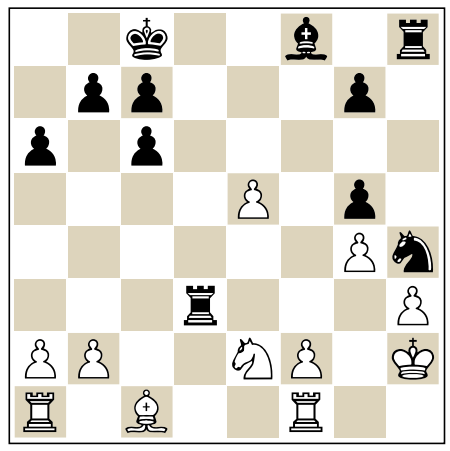
This was the result of a serious blackout in which I spent one hour on the clock without finding a win after 16...fxe5.

As it turns out, I had plenty of really good continuations: 16...c5 is a good move, trying to undermine White's centre. The normal attempt to stop this would be to no avail, as 17.c3 ♘h4 18.♕g3 ♕e4 is winning for Black.

16...♗e7 is the most ridiculous move ever, but also the best one in this position according to my computer. It threatens ...fxe5 without allowing ♗xg5, and with the opening of the centre White's doom soon follows.

Finally, 16...fxe5 17.♗xg5 ♖d5 18.♘c3 ♗d6 is also winning, according to my computer, but for some strange reason I wasn't convinced about my chances after 19.♘e4, although after 19...exd4+ Black's position is very decent (aka completely winning), even though he's no material up.

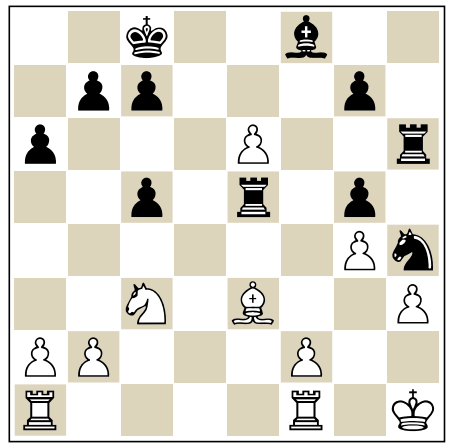
17.♕d3 ♕xd3 18.cxd3 fxe5 19.dxe5 ♖xd3



This endgame is still very good for Black, of course.

20.♗e3 ♖d5 21.e6 ♖h6 22.♘c3 ♖e5 23.♔h1 c5

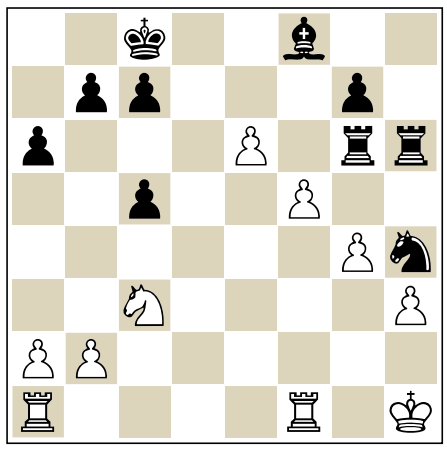
Black has just about consolidated and will soon be ready to capture White's pawn, with a big edge. Here Matthew decided that drastic measures were called for, and as it turns out, he could've been even more cunning.



24.♗xg5

24.♖ad1 is a very normal move, but contains a fantastic trap: 24...♖hxe6? 25.♗xg5!! ♖xg5 26.f4, when the tables have been turned and Black's best would be 26...♖gg6 27.f5 ♖e3 28.fxg6 ♖xh3+ 29.♔g1 ♘xg6, when White has enough activity for a draw.

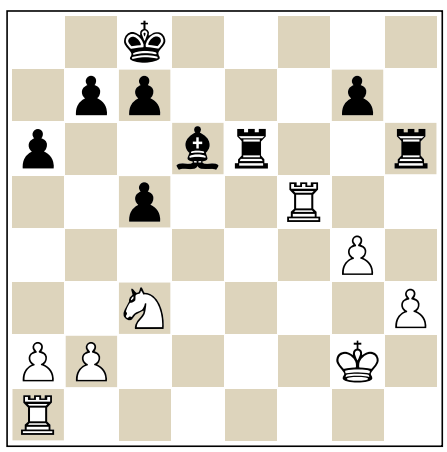
24...♖xg5 25.f4 ♖gg6 26.f5



26...♘xf5!

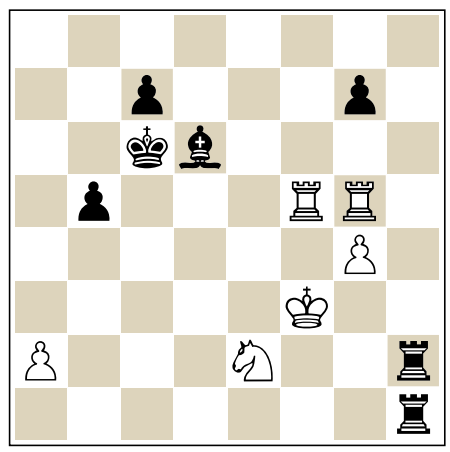
I slightly panicked when Matthew played 24.♗xg5, but luckily I had this bail-out.

27.♖xf5 ♗d6 28.♔g2 ♖xe6



Now the rest should be just a matter of technique, but I managed to create more excitement before getting to write 0-1 on the scoresheet.

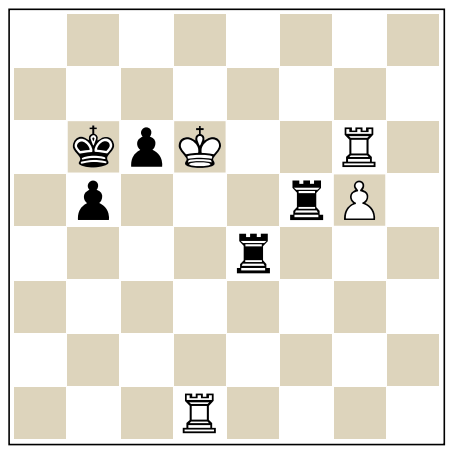
29.♖af1 b5 30.b3 ♔b7 31.♖1f2 ♔c6 32.♘e2 ♖e3 33.♘g1 ♖g3+ 34.♔f1 ♖c3 35.♖g5 c4 36.bxc4 ♗c5 37.cxb5+ axb5 38.♘e2 ♖cxh3 39.♖ff5 ♖h1+ 40.♔g2 ♖6h2+ 41.♔g3 ♖h3+ 42.♔g2 ♖3h2+ 43.♔g3 ♗d6+ 44.♔f3



44...♖f1+

Instead, 44...♖h3+! 45.♔f2 ♖1h2+ 46.♔f1 ♖d3! would've forced immediate resignation.

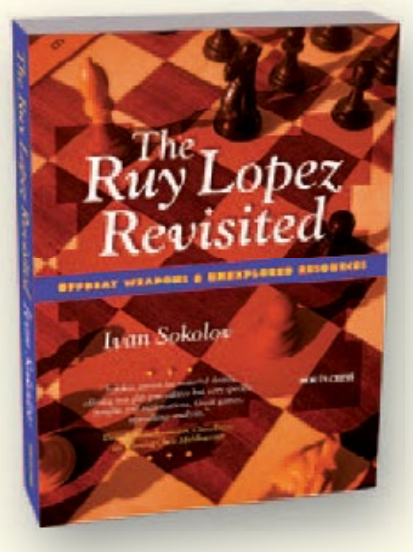
45.♔e3 ♖e1 46.♖f2 ♖h3+ 47.♖f3 ♖h2 48.♖f2 ♗f4+ 49.♖xf4 ♖exe2+ 50.♔d3 ♖xa2 51.♖b4 ♖a5 52.♖xg7 ♖a3+ 53.♔d4 ♔b6 54.♖g6+ c6 55.♖b1 ♖a4+ 56.♔e5 ♖e2+ 57.♔f5 ♖f2+ 58.♔e5 ♖ff4 59.g5 ♖ae4+ 60.♔d6 ♖f5 61.♖d1



61...♖g4 A move I was very happy with. Black gives up his c-pawn to exchange rooks, and thereby gets a winning rook-ending.

4NCL 2009/10

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	BP	MP
1 Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 1	*	4	6	6	5½	6½	7½	5½	41	13
2 Pride and Prejudice	4	*	2	7	5½	5½	6½	6	36½	11
3 Barbican 4NCL	2	6	*	3	5½	5½	5½	4½	32	10
4 White Rose	2	1	5	*	1	5	4½	4½	23	8
5 Wood Green Hilsmark Kingfisher 2	2½	2½	2½	7	*	2	6	6	28½	6
6 Guildford-A&DC	1½	2½	2½	3	6	*	3	6	24½	4
7 Cambridge University	½	1½	2½	3½	2	5	*	4	19	3
8 The ADs	2½	2	3½	3½	2	2	4	*	19½	1



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Sverre Johnsen, author of *The Ruy Lopez, A Guide for Black*

"Sokolov's Spanish book with half-forgotten variations has something to offer for everyone. It is well suited for practical players, adventurers and connoisseurs."
Fernando Offermann, Schachwelt

"This is simply a great opening book, probably one of the best ever on the Spanish Opening."
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"A well-written, well-structured book with a lot of interesting ideas to explore. Sokolov introduces each chapter with plenty of textual material and also summarises at the end."
British Chess Magazine

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62.♔d7

In case of 62.♖c1 I was planning 62...♖fxg5 63.♖xc6+ ♔a5 64.♖e6 ♖g6, which is winning for Black.

62...♖c5 63.♖g8 ♖cxg5 64.♖b8+ ♔c5 65.♖c1+ ♖c4 66.♖e1 ♖g7+ 67.♔e6 ♖g3 68.♖e5+ ♔b4 69.♔d6 ♖g6+ 70.♔c7 ♖h4 71.♖c8 c5 72.♔b7 c4 73.♖c6 ♖xc6 74.♔xc6 ♖h6+ 75.♔d5 c3

Matthew resigned, and our team could celebrate the league win thanks to a crushing 6-2 against Barbican!

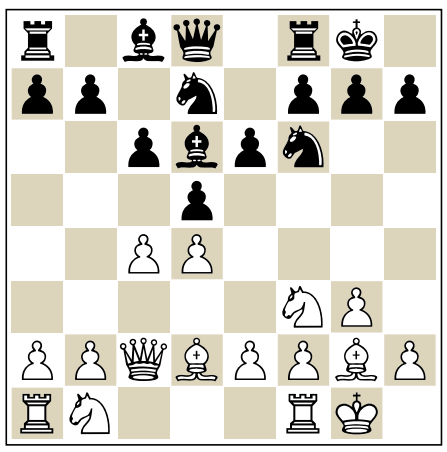
NOTES BY

Michael Adams

CA 1.3 – E01
Etienne Bacrot
Michael Adams
4NCL 2009/10 (4)

One of the unusual features of the 4NCL is the possibility of using one wildcard (any player who does not have to be registered by the club) throughout the season, so my opponent for this game was a small surprise. However, this didn't have a major effect on my preparation, as Etienne wheeled out the Catalan, which also occurred in my last encounter with my other likely opponent Jon Hammer.

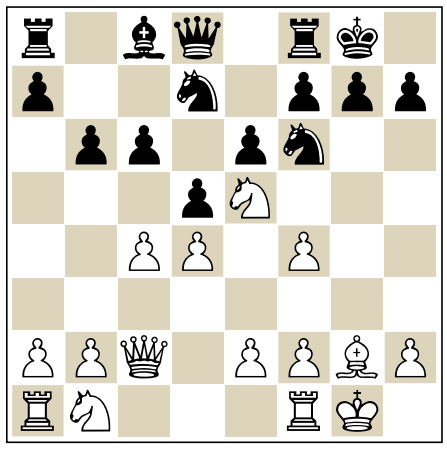
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗b4+ 5.♗d2 ♗d6 6.♗g2 c6 7.♕c2 ♘bd7 8.0-0 0-0



9.♗f4

A logical move, swapping the awkwardly placed bishop. After a database search I've discovered this position was also reached by a slightly different move order in Réti-Yates, Baden Baden 1925, a game I don't think my opponent was too familiar with either. That encounter continued with 9...♕e7, which doesn't look too critical.

9...♗xf4 10.gxf4 b6 11.♘e5



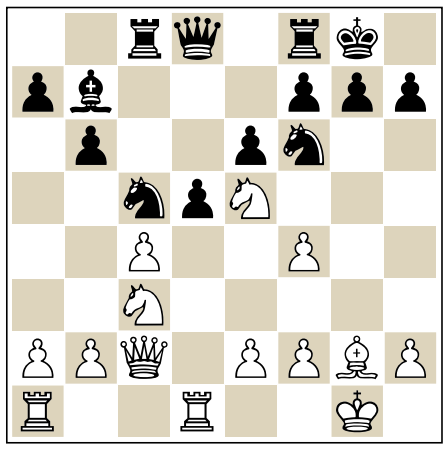
11...c5

I thought the immediate break was more precise than 11...♗b7.

12.dxc5

After 12.♘c6 ♕c7 13.♘e7+ ♔h8 14.cxd5 either 14...♗b7 15.d6 ♕xd6 16.♗xb7 ♖ab8 or 14...♕xf4 look quite interesting.

12...♘xc5 13.♘c3 ♗b7 14.♖fd1 ♖c8



Black seems to have mobilised smoothly, but as so often in the Catalan, White still has a nagging edge.

15.♖d4

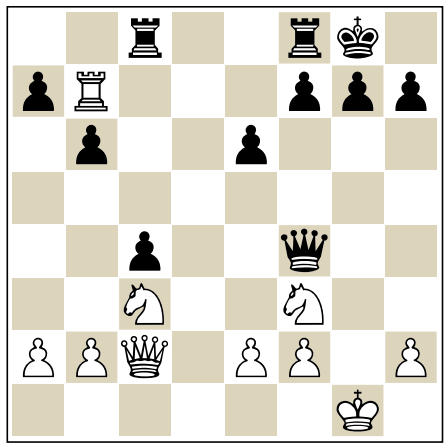
The consolidating 15.e3, tidying up the kingside pawn chain, was worth considering.

15...♕e7 16.♖ad1 dxc4 17.♗xb7

After 17.♘xc4 ♗xg2 18.♔xg2 ♖fd8 White's initiative seems to be petering out, so my opponent goes for an ambitious tactical option that disturbs the material balance.

17...♘xb7 18.♖d7 ♘xd7 19.♖xd7 ♕h4 20.♖xb7 ♕xf4 21.♘f3

Retreating the knight is consistent, as after 21.♕e4 ♕c1+ 22.♔g2 Black can force perpetual with 22...♕g5+.

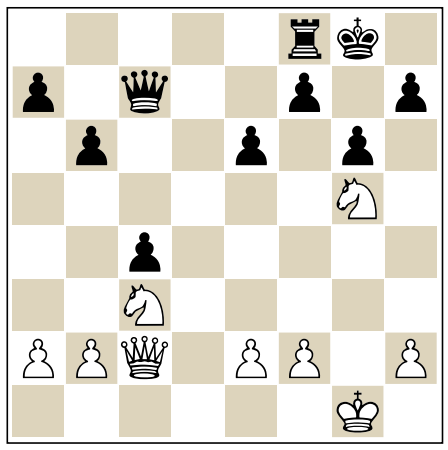


21...♖c7

A difficult decision. 21...♖cd8 22.♖xa7 f5, abandoning material and playing for the attack, was the other option. It was probably a safer and certainly more practical decision: 23.♕a4 ♕c1+ 24.♔g2 ♖f6 25.h4 ♖g6+ 26.♘g5 ♖xg5+ 27.hxg5 ♕xg5+ 28.♔f1 ♕c1+, with a draw, is one possible continuation.

Now in the game there follows a period of play where White's king is quite secure, and I have to take some tricky decisions.

22.♖xc7 ♕xc7 23.♘g5 g6



24.♕e4

I hadn't considered this, feeling the more natural 24.♘ce4 was stronger.

Originally I had intended 24...♕e5, but 25.♘f3 ♕g7 26.♘d6 looks better for White.

I also didn't like the look of 24...♔g7 25.♕c3+ e5 26.f4 ♖e8 27.♘f3 (27.f5!? also looks rather dangerous) 27...f6 28.fxe5 fxe5 29.♕b4, although this might be alright. And 24...h6 25.♕c3 e5 26.♘f6+ ♔g7 27.♘ge4 ♖d8 28.♔g2 also isn't ideal.

The calm 24...♖d8 looks like the best option, as White doesn't have time to take the pawn on h7: 25.♘f6+ ♔g7 26.♕c3 e5 27.♘ge4 b5, when both sides have their chances.

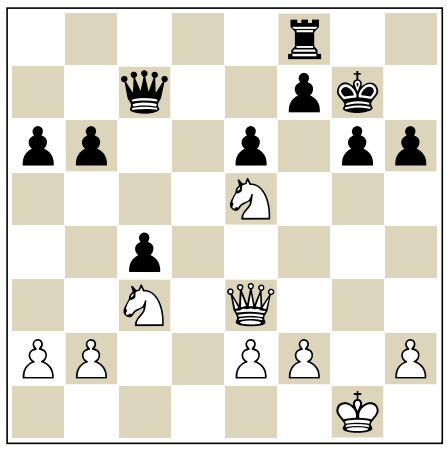
24...h6 25.♘f3 a6

Edging the queenside pawns forward, and continuing restricting White's knights hedgehog style, but it's not long before they have hopped on to fresh outposts.

26.♕e3

During the game I thought 26.a4 or 26.h4 might be coming, and both moves seem quite interesting. Etienne looks to force weaknesses with piece play instead.

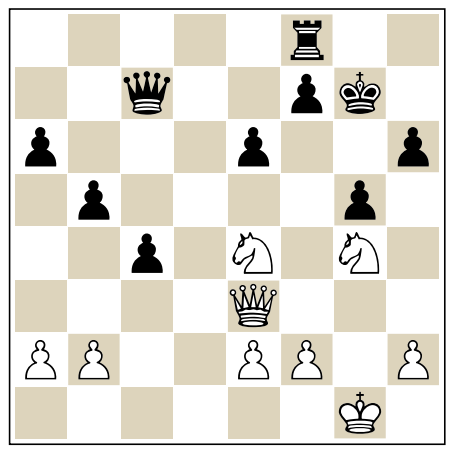
26...♔g7 27.♘e5



27...b5

A useful move, but the direct 27...f6 28.♘g4 (28.♘f3 e5) 28...h5 29.♕h6+ ♔g8 30.♘e3 b5 31.♕xg6+ ♕g7 32.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 leads to an ending which should be quite safe for Black.

28.♘g4 g5 29.♘e4



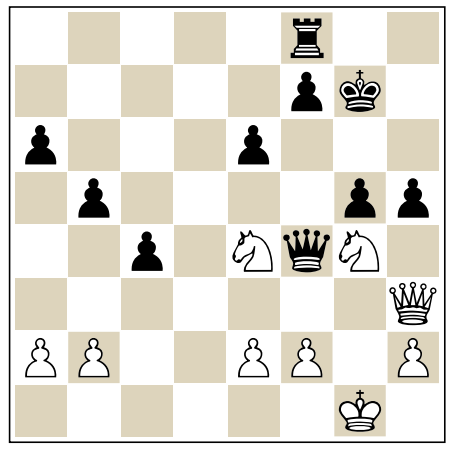
29...♕f4

I thought 29...f5 was asking for trouble, but Black seems to survive: 30.♘xg5 hxg5 31.♕xg5+ ♔f7 32.♕f6+ ♔e8 33.♕xe6+ ♕e7 34.♕c8+ ♔f7 35.♕xf5+ ♔g7 36.♕h5 ♖h8 37.♕f5 keeps the balance.

30.♕h3

The point behind my last move is the variation 30.♕d4+ f6 31.♕d7+ ♔g6 32.♕xe6 ♕f5, forcing favourable liquidation.

30...h5



31.♘gf6

After 31.♕xh5 ♖h8 32.♕xg5+ ♕xg5 33.♘xg5 ♖d8 34.h4 ♖d1+ 35.♔g2 ♔g6 the vulnerability of White's queenside pawns is the most important factor.

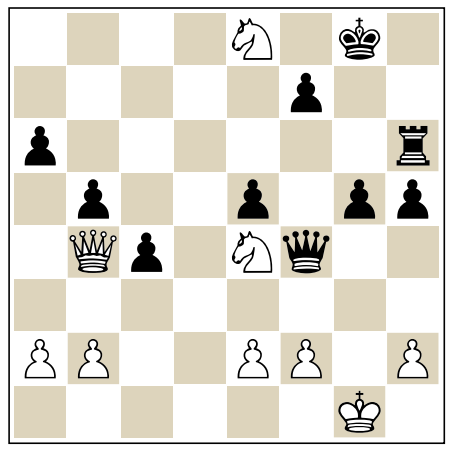
31...♖h8 32.♕c3

The king and pawn ending arising following 32.♘xh5+ ♖xh5 33.♕xh5 ♕xe4 34.♕xg5+ ♕g6 35.♕xg6+ ♔xg6 looks very bad for White.

32...e5 33.♕b4 ♖h6

Challenging the chain of knights, but as no checks are threatened at the moment 33...g4 seems quite logical: 34.♕e7 h4 35.e3 ♕f5 (not 35...♕f3 36.♘e8+ ♖xe8 37.♕g5+ ♔h8 38.♕h6+ ♔g8 39.♘f6+) 36.♘d7 ♕xe4 37.♕f6+ ♔g8 38.♕d8+ leads to perpetual again.

34.♘e8+ ♔g8



35.♘8d6

During the game I had become concerned about 35.f3 – this stronger move forces Black to play precisely.

My original intention 35...♖e6 36.♘c7 is good for White, as the knights regain good coordination with gain of tempo.

Instead, 35...g4 is correct: 36.♕e7 ♕e3+ 37.♔f1 gxf3 38.♘4f6+ ♖xf6 39.♘xf6+ ♔g7 40.♘xh5+ ♔g6 41.♘g3 fxe2+ 42.♘xe2 ♕f3+ 43.♔e1 ♕h1+ 44.♔d2 ♕d5+ 45.♔e3 ♕d3+ 46.♔f2 ♕f5+ 47.♔g2 ♕e4+ enables Black to scramble a draw.

35...h4

By now both sides were running low on time and weren't able to work out the intricacies of 35...♕c1+ 36.♔g2 h4 37.h3 g4 38.♕a5 gxh3+ 39.♔h2 ♕f4+ 40.♔xh3 ♖g6 41.♕d8+ ♔h7 42.♕d7 ♖g1 43.♘xf7 ♖h1+ 44.♔g2 ♕xe4+ 45.f3 ♕xe2+ 46.♔xh1 ♕f1+ 47.♔h2 ♕f2+ 48.♔h1 ♕xf3+ 49.♔h2, which also ends up with equality.

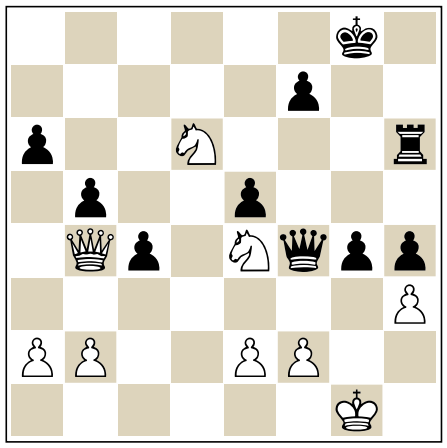
36.h3

Of course not 36.♕c5 ♕c1+ 37.♔g2 h3+ 38.♔g3 ♕f4 mate!

36...g4

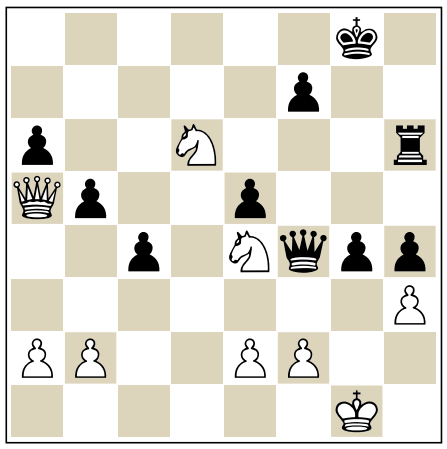
If 36...f5 then 37.e3 ♕f3 38.♘d2

♕xh3 39.♕c5 f4 40.♕c7, and it all ends peacefully.



37.e3

The fatal error. 37.♕c5 gxh3 also loses, but surprisingly White could still save the game by sending his queen round the angles with 37.♕a5.



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

Now 37...♖g6 38.♕d8+ ♔h7 39.♕xh4+ ♖h6 40.♕e7 ♕c1+ 41.♔g2 gxh3+ 42.♔h2 ♕f4+ 43.♔h1 leads to a draw.

Alternatively, 37...gxh3 38.♕d8+ ♔h7 39.♘g5+ ♔g6 40.♘xh3 is not very clear, and 37...♖xd6 38.♘xd6 gxh3 39.♕d8+ ♔h7 40.♕a8 is hard to assess.

37...♕f3 38.♕c5

Now 38.♕a5 ♕d1+ 39.♔g2 gxh3+ 40.♔h2 ♖xd6 41.♘xd6 ♕xd6 42.♔xh3 ♕f6 leads to a winning ending.

38...♖g6

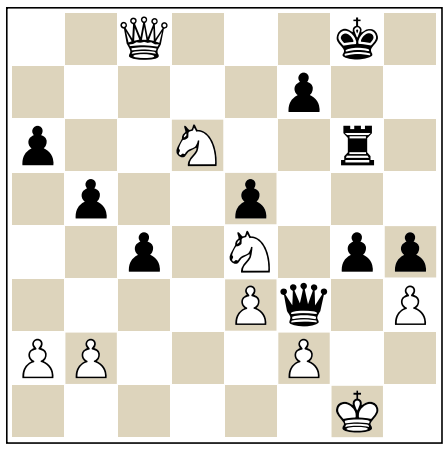
A strong move, setting up a deadly discovered check.

38...♕d1+ 39.♔h2 g3+ 40.♔g2 gxf2 41.♕c8+ ♔h7 42.♕f5+ ♖g6+ 43.♔xf2 leads nowhere.

39.♕c8+

MARK HUBA

Michael Adams was surprised but not shocked to see Etienne Bacrot as his opponent.



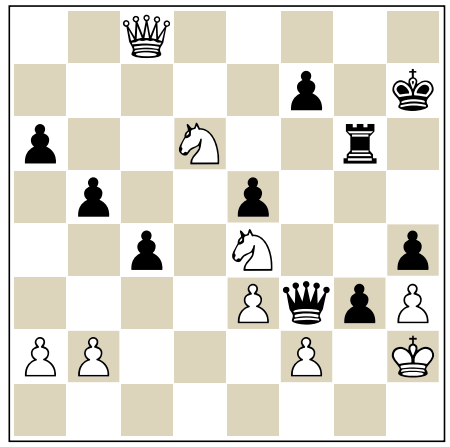
39...♔h7

I had a fifty per cent chance of getting this right, but apparently needed better odds. It seems natural to tuck the king away out of checking distance, but 39...♔g7 40.♘f5+ (40.♘e8+ ♔h6) 40...♔h7 leaves White out of options.

40.♔h2

The only chance 40.♕f5 sets a treacherous trap, as the discovered check 40...gxh3+ is met by an even stronger check in reply: 41.♘g5+ would be a most unpleasant reversal. However, if I managed to spot this evil trick and play 40...♕xf5 41.♘xf5 gxh3+ 42.♔h2 b4, the ending should be reasonably easy to convert, e.g. 43.♘e7 ♖g2+ 44.♔xh3 ♖g1 45.♘d5 f5 46.♘c5 ♖h1+ 47.♔g2 ♖b1 48.♘xb4 ♖xb2 49.♘cxa6 c3.

40...g3+



Etienne resigned, as mate is forced: 41.fxg3 hxg3+ 42.♔g1 ♕d1+ etc.

Recent years have seen a resurgence in events being held in England, but for several years the 4NCL remained one bright spot in a rather barren chess outlook and the work of those who have supported the league either in terms of organisation or sponsorship is much appreciated.

One rout leads to another

Pavel Matocha

The 2010 CEZ Chess Trophy was already the eighth match the Prague Chess Society has organized for David Navara. For the first time, the best player of the Czech Republic faced a woman. With his 2718 rating Navara appeared to be the clear favourite in the 8-game rapid match against Judit Polgar (2682). Reality was different. The queen of chess played with gusto and won 6-2. Navara's reaction to this painful rout was equally unambiguous: at the Czech championship that he entered only days later he smashed the opposition, scoring 8½/9, a 2916 performance!

'Mr. Prime Minister, could you please move the third pawn from the left by two squares', the arbiter instructed the special guest who had been invited to make David Navara's first move, 1.c4.

'It is not necessary to instruct me, I can play chess', Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer smiled. 'With my name I can neither refuse a chess invitation nor play any other move than 1.e4', and he advanced White's king's pawn by two squares.

'David, you can take the move back and play 1.c4, it was just a symbolic kick-off', whispered the arbiter, and Judit Polgar nodded – she understood. However, David Navara shook his head: 'No, 1.e4 has already been played.' And he pushed the clock.

Thus started the duel of the best female player in the world against the best Czech chess player. The match was held in Michna Palace in Prague's Kampa, just several hundred metres from the place of birth of the first chess World Champion, Wilhelm Steinitz, who was born here in 1836. There was a similar distance to the venue of the 1931 Chess Olympiad and the Women's World Championship held in 1931, where the mother country was represented by, amongst others, the first Women's World Champion, Vera Mencikova.

For David Navara it was already the eighth duel organized by the Prague Chess Society. Prior to Judit Polgar, his opponents since 2003 were Viktor Kortchnoi, Alexey Shirov, Anatoly Karpov, Boris Gelfand, Nigel Short, Vladimir Kramnik and Vasily Ivanchuk. Navara won against some of them, some matches were drawn and some opponents defeated him. However, the Czech grandmaster was never beaten so badly as this time – by a woman.

The eight games of rapid chess (25 minutes plus 10-second increments) were spread over three days, and every day Judit Polgar had the best score. At the end of the three days she had convincingly assembled 6 points, as against Navara's 2. Almost all games were dramatic, and Navara was by

VLADIMIR JAGR

Judit Polgar admires an alternative chess set at the Prague Centre for Contemporary Art. The CEZ Chess Trophy coincided with an exhibition of chess sets designed by present-day artists such as Damien Rice and Paul McCarthy.

no means doomed from the very start. However, in most cases it was he who made the final mistake or lost on time. Polgar's best game was the second one, in which she made an inspired piece sacrifice and won in great style.

NOTES BY
Judit Polgar

RL 25.7 – C95
Judit Polgar
David Navara
Prague 2010 (2)

My opening choice in Game 1, an Open Spanish, came as a surprise to my opponent. In a match the opening choice is very important, even though both Navara and myself are at our best in the middlegame.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3

The Ruy Lopez is part of David's main repertoire against 1.e4.

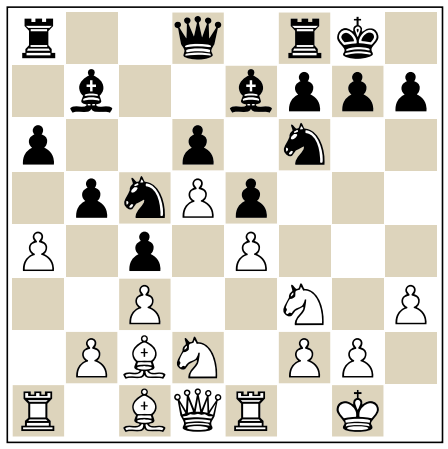
9...♘b8

The Breyer Variation, but David also plays other systems, like the Zaitsev and the Chigorin.

10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♗b7

I have often played 12.♗c2 in this position to protect the e4 pawn, so I can transfer my d2 knight to g3.

12.a4 c5 13.d5 c4 14.♗c2 ♘c5



15.a5

A new move. I will probably not have too many followers☺. The most common move here was 15.♘f1, to keep the tension on the queenside, transfer the knight to g3 and open the diagonal for the bishop on c1.

Prague 2010 (rapid)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		TPR
Judit Polgar	IGM HUN 2682	½	1	1	1	1	0	1	½	6	2901
David Navara	IGM CZE 2708	½	0	0	0	0	1	0	½	2	2489

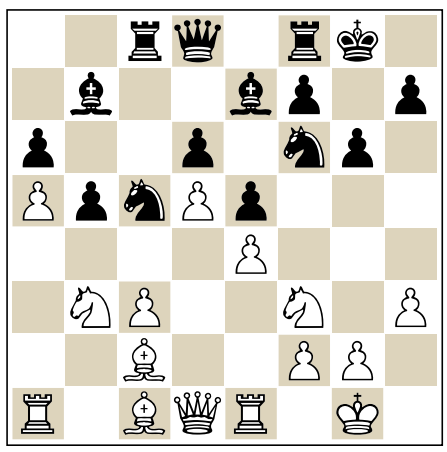
15...g6

Black would like to play knight h5, which he could not play immediately because of 16.♘xe5, which wins a pawn for White. I was expecting 15...♖c8 first.

16.b4 A logical continuation after the previous move.

16...cxb3 17.♘xb3 ♖c8

17...♘a4 would have been interesting, when my plan was to play 18.c4, but during the game I didn't pay attention to the following opportunity for Black: 18...♘c3, and after 19.♕d2 ♘fxe4 20.♗xe4 ♘xe4 21.♖xe4 f5 22.♖e1 bxc4 Black traps my knight!



18.♖e3

This is an artificial move. My plan was to play ♗a3 on the next move and to protect the c3 pawn from b4, but I will not have enough time. I should have played 18.♘bd2.

I don't like 18.♘xc5, because after 18...♖xc5 19.♗d2 ♘h5 Black will have a very easy game. He can play ...♕c7, and at some point he may even go ...f5 to break up the centre.

As said, the move I like most is 18.♘bd2. Now Black has to go back with his c5 knight to open the c-file for the rook by playing 18...♘cd7, when there is a very interesting pawn sac for White: 19.c4 and if Black takes, 19...bxc4, then I go 20.♖e3 and I will win back the c4 pawn one way or another: 20...c3 21.♘b1 ♖c4 (or 21...♖c5 22.♖xc3 ♖xa5 23.♗a3, with compensation) 22.♘xc3 ♕c7 23.♗d2, with unclear play.

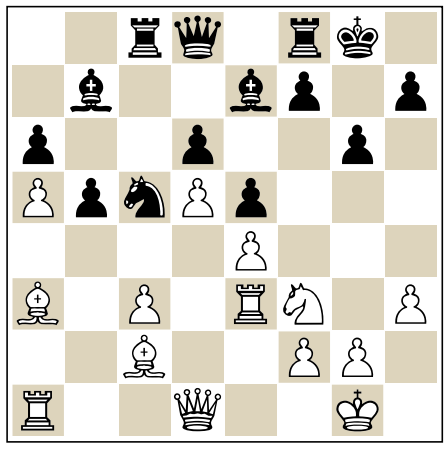
18...♘fd7

Black had in mind to play for ...f5 and break up the centre. I must say this works for Black only very rarely in such positions.

Black should have taken the initiative by playing 18...♘a4, when White continues 19.♕e1 to avoid the black knight from getting to c4 (if 19.♗d2 then 19...♘b2 followed by ...♘c4 and Black would have a fantastic position, which he can usually only dream of!) but after 19...♘h5 Black will have a great game anyway!

19.♘xc5 ♘xc5 20.♗a3

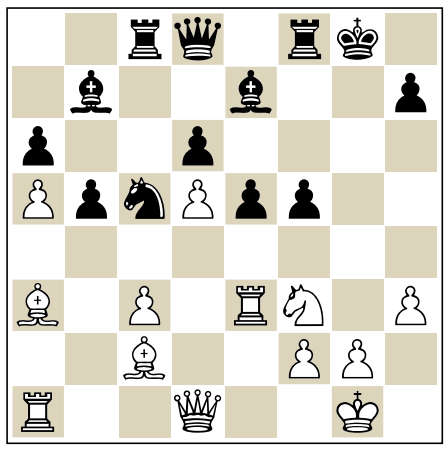
My plan was to play ♗b4 and later on ♘d2 and c4, breaking up the queenside pawn structure.



20...f5

Very energetic and brave. I thought Black needed time to prepare this move by playing 20...♔h8 first.

21.exf5 gxf5

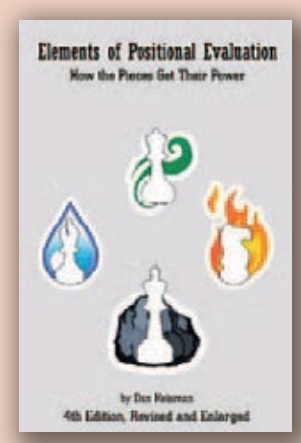


22.♘xe5

It was a rapid game after all, so I did not hesitate for too long about the piece sacrifice. I had the feeling that I would get enough compensation.

22...dxe5 23.♖xe5 ♖c7

This is what I had expected. It's a very logical defensive move, pre-



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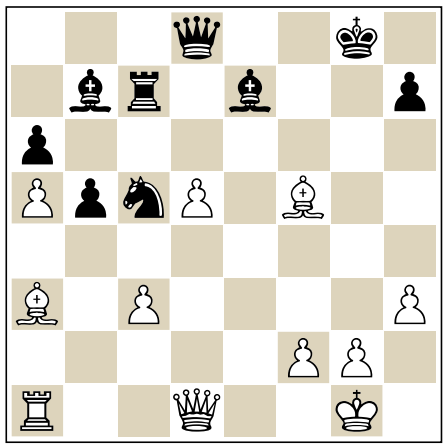
paring to move the bishop, while the rook will defend on the seventh rank.

23...♕d7 would be bad because of 24.♕h5, with an attack.

24.♖xf5

24.♕d4, in order to keep the tension in the centre, was a strong alternative, when after 24...♗f6 there's the nice 25.d6!, when suddenly the rook is badly placed on c7! This is the fantastic thing about chess, that after every move there are new opportunities, and many times it is very difficult to understand the differences.

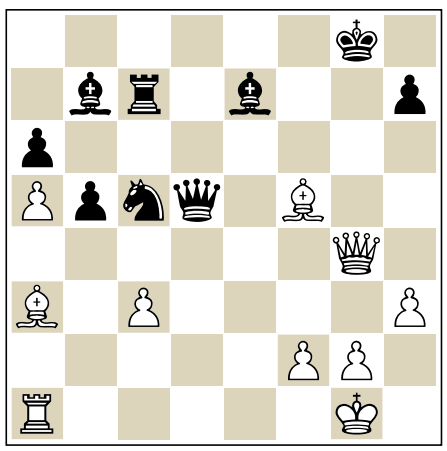
24...♖xf5 25.♗xf5



25...♕xd5

I had underestimated this move, as I had thought that Navara would continue with 25...♗d6 and defend on the seventh rank.

26.♕g4+



26...♔h8?

Strangely enough my opponent played this move almost immediately. It is one of the most difficult things in a game to decide what the critical moment is, when a decision can be decisive. This was one of those moments. After this move Black is in great danger on the a1-h8 diagonal.

The correct move for Black was 26...♔f8, to avoid the mating net: 27.♗c1! (regrouping the bishop and aiming to attack the king from h6) 27...♖c6 28.♗e3, when White has compensation, and it must be very scary to have to play such a position in a rapid game.

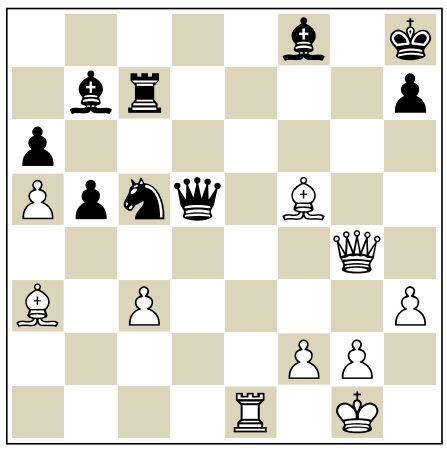
27.♖e1

It is clear that I have to bring my last piece into the attack.

27...♗f8

If 27...♕f7 then White has a very nice idea: 28.♕d4+ ♗f6 (or 28...♔g8 29.♖e5, with a decisive advantage) 29.♖e8+ ♕xe8 30.♕xf6+ ♖g7 31.♗xc5, and White wins.

27...♕g8 is even worse: 28.♕d4+ ♕g7 29.♗xc5, and wins.



28.c4

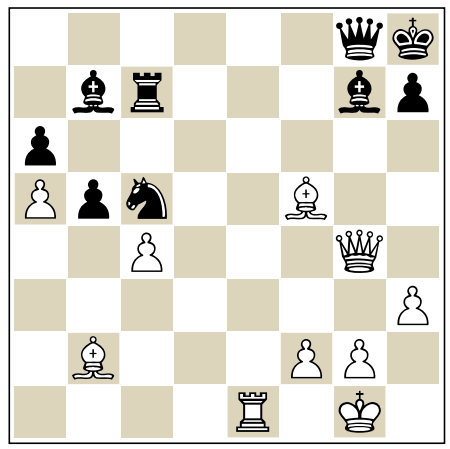
After 26...♔h8 was played I couldn't wait to play this move, because I'd seen my 30th move which made me happy and enthusiastic! ☺

Objectively speaking, 28.♖e8! was even better: 28...♖f7 (if 28...♕f7 then 29.♕d4+ ♔g8 30.♕d8 wins on the spot) 29.♗e4, and Black can resign.

28...♕g8

At this point 28...♕xg2+! was the best defence for Black: 29.♕xg2 ♗xg2 30.♔xg2 bxc4, when it is clear that White has an advantage, but it is also difficult to convert it.

29.♗b2+ ♗g7



30.♗xh7!

I thought this was winning on the spot, but actually it is not as simple and fast as I thought at first.

30...♕f8

30...♔xh7 would lead to a quick finish: 31.♕f5+ ♔h6 32.♗c1 mate.

31.♗xg7+

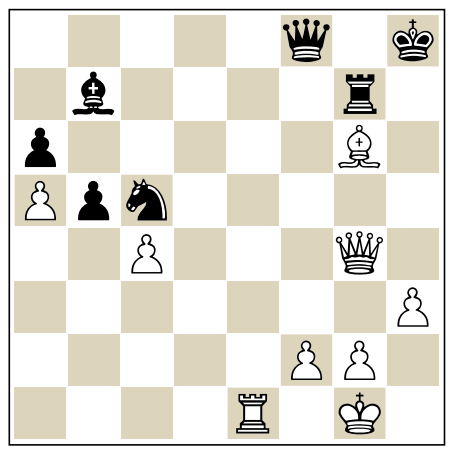
This is the human way to play. According to the engines, 31.♕h5 would have been better. When we have a winning position in a practical game it is important not always to play the best move. Sometimes simplifying the position gives an easier win, with fewer or no counter-chances for your opponent.

So, the most direct way was 31.♕h5! ♗xb2 32.♗b1+ ♔g8 33.♖e8 bxc4 34.♕g4+ ♗g7 35.♕xc4+.

31...♖xg7

31...♕xg7 would lose to 32.♖e8+ ♔xh7 33.♕h5+ ♕h6 34.♖h8+ ♔xh8 35.♕xh6+ ♔g8 36.♕g5+, winning material.

32.♗g6



32...♔g8

I thought my opponent would

try 32...♘d3, which contains a nice trick. After 33.♕h5+ ♔g8 34.♖e8 ♕xe8 35.♗xe8 ♖xg2+ 36.♔f1 ♖xf2+ Black gives perpetual check! However, 33.♕h4+ ♔g8 34.♗xd3 ♖xg2+ 35.♔f1 gives White a win.

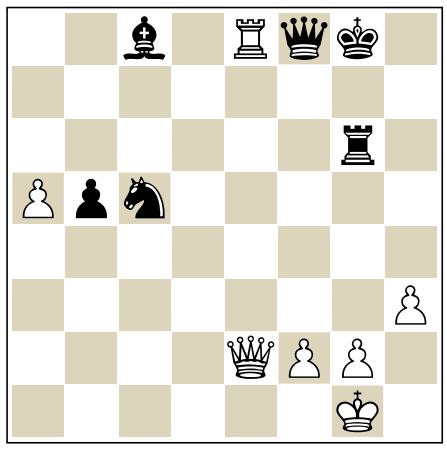
33.cxb5

I realized that I couldn't give mate immediately. I had to make a few quiet moves to win the game.

33...axb5 34.♖e5! ♗c8 35.♕e2

Accuracy is still needed!

35...♖xg6 36.♖e8



White has too many pawns and Black's pieces are not coordinated.

36...♗b7 37.f3 ♘e6 38.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 39.♕xb5

Winning more material. Black decides to try one more chance. The game is not over until the players shake hands!

39...♖xg2+ 40.♔xg2 ♗xf3+ 41.♔g3 Black resigned. With this win I took a 1½-½ lead and I also won the next game with black. So Day 1 was decisive for the outcome of the match.

Those who expected that this loss would depress and discourage David Navara, who after all was the stronger player by rating, were in for a pleasant surprise. Only days after the match, in Ostrava, he took part in the national championship of the Czech Republic, an open with the participation of all top Czech players. Navara scored an amazing 8½ out of 9, and claimed the title with a two-point margin and a 2916 rating performance. The Czech champion presents his flashiest win, a well-timed kingside attack.

VLADIMIR JAGR

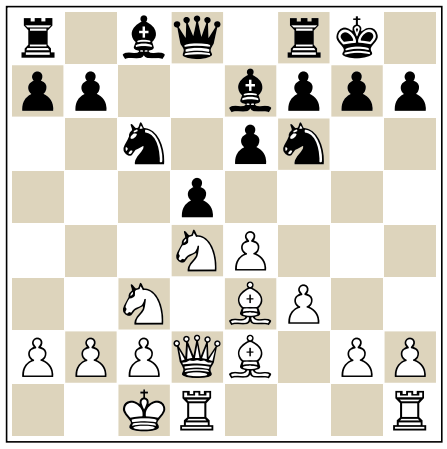
In the Czech Championship David Navara improved on a game he played in a simul.

NOTES BY

David Navara

SI 19.12 – B80
David Navara
Vitezslav Rasik
Ostrava 2010 (7)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗e3 ♘c6 7.f3 ♗e7 8.♕d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 10.♗e2

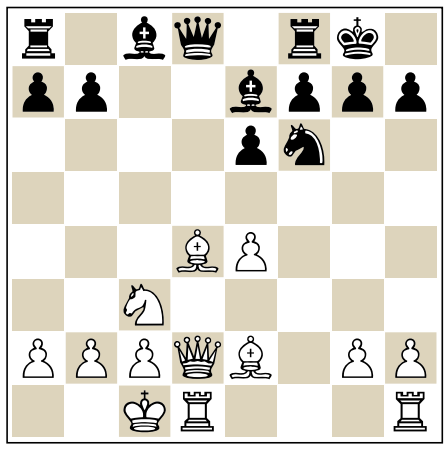


I first encountered this line while preparing for Jan Smeets in October 2009. Since then I have played it against Sergei Movsesian and in a simul in Luxembourg.

10...♘xd4

After 10...dxe4 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.♕xd8 ♖xd8 13.♘xe4 ♘xe4 14.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 15.♖d1! the position is slightly better for White, for example 15...♗b7 16.♖d7!.

11.♗xd4 dxe4 12.fxe4



12...♕a5

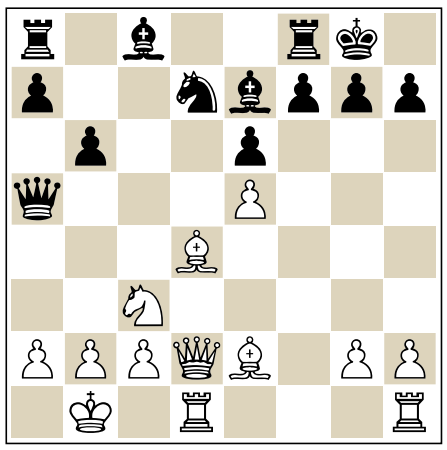
Originally I believed that 12...♕c7 13.e5 ♘d5 was more or less playable, but the computer suggestion 13.♘b5! (instead of 13.e5) 13...♕c6 14.♕g5 is very strong – White threatens to play ♖hf1, and 14...♕xe4?! fails to 15.♗f3 ♕g6 16.♕xg6 hxg6 17.♘c7 ♖b8

18.♗xa7 ♗d7 19.♗xb8 ♖xb8 20.♖d3 ♖c8 21.♖c3 ♗d6 22.♘b5!, with a winning advantage. Since I have known this, I have not been particularly eager to play this line with black, like I used to before.

13.♔b1 White is threatening 14.♘d5. **13...b6 14.e5**

Rybka prefers 14.♕f4!?, the main idea being 14...♗a6 15.♗xa6 ♕xa6 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.e5 ♗e7 18.♖d7.

14...♘d7



15.♕f4 Up to now I had played quickly. In the game Navara-Wagener, Luxembourg simul 2010, I played 15.♕e3, which is slightly weaker. The text generates additional pressure against f7.

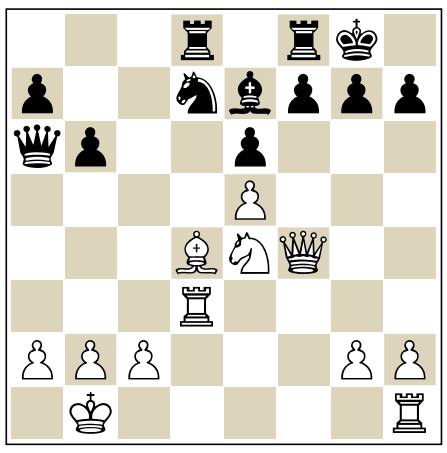
15...♗a6 16.♗xa6 ♕xa6 17.♘e4

The threat of 18.♘f6+ might be annoying.

17...♖ad8 18.♖d3

Simple and strong. The rook enters the attack.

Here, 18.♘f6+? ♘xf6 19.exf6 ♗xf6 20.♗xf6 (with the rook already placed on d3, 20.♕xf6 would have won on the spot) 20...gxf6 21.♕xf6 ♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 ♕e2 does not promise White anything special.



18...♘c5?!

During the post-mortem we looked at lines like 18...♕c4 19.b3 ♕c7? (Rybka insists that 19...♕c6 20.♖g3 ♔h8 might be playable) 20.♖g3 f5 21.♕h6 g6 22.♖xg6+ hxg6 23.♕xg6+ ♔h8 24.♕h6+ ♔g8 25.♕xe6+ ♖f7 26.♘d6, with a decisive attack.

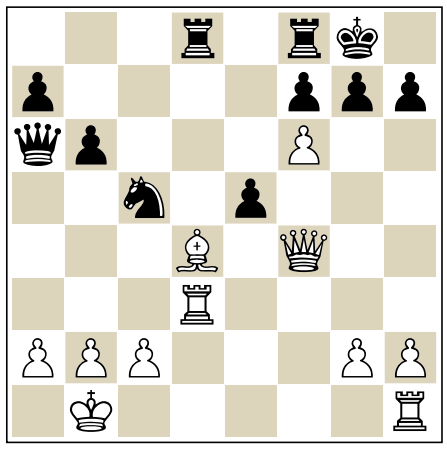
18...♔h8 might have been the best move. I planned to reply with 19.♖h3?! (19.♘f6 ♘xe5! 20.♕xe5 ♕xd3 21.cxd3 ♗xf6 is fine for Black, who has few weaknesses. Perhaps a move like 19.♖hd1 is called for, when White keeps a decent edge) 19...f5?! (Rybka proposes 19...♕e2! – it is important that White cannot play 20.♘f6? ♗xf6 21.exf6 ♘xf6 22.♕xf6, because of 22...♕xg2!) 20.exf6 ♗xf6 21.♘xf6, although White retains a clear advantage.

Originally, I was worried about 18...f5, but 19.exf6 ♘xf6 20.♕c7!? ♘d5 (20...♘xe4 21.♕xe7 ♖xd4 22.♖xd4 ♖f1+ 23.♖d1, and there is no mate on the back rank) 21.♕e5 looked strong enough to me, and rightly so: 21...♖f7 22.♖f3 (22.♕xe6?? ♘f4).

19.♘f6+!

Some accuracy is required – 19.♗xc5? bxc5 20.♘f6+ ♗xf6! 21.exf6 e5! would have spoiled everything.

19...♗xf6 20.exf6 e5



21.♕xe5

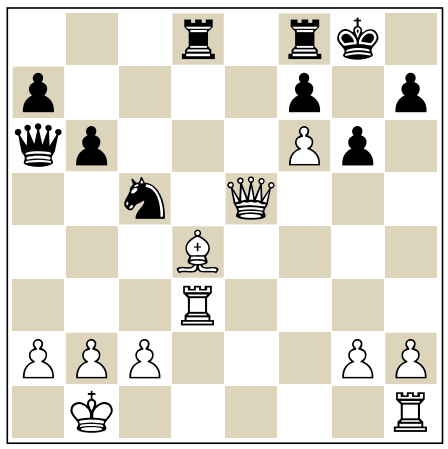
The rook is taboo in view of 22.♕g5.

I rejected 21.♕g3 g6 22.♕g5 in view of 22...♘e6 23.♕h6 ♕xd3 24.cxd3 ♖xd4 25.♖e1 ♖f4 26.♖xe5 ♖xf6, and Black's position remains very solid.

21...g6

21...♖fe8 loses to 22.♕h5! (Rybka). Instead, I saw two other promising continuations: 22.♗xc5 ♕xd3 23.♕xe8+ ♖xe8 24.cxd3 bxc5 25.♖c1 gxf6 26.♖xc5 ♖e2 27.♖a5 ♖xg2 28.♖xa7, with a clear endgame advantage for White, and 22.♕g3 ♘e6 (22...g6 23.♕g5! is not better) 23.♖hd1, and White should be winning.

21...♘e6!? might have been the relatively best choice, but still not a good one.

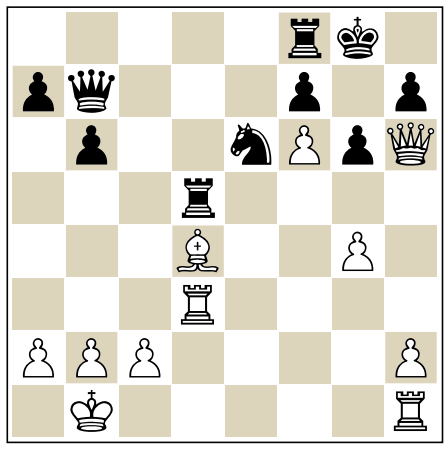


22.♕g5! White had more ways to victory, but this is the most straightforward one.

22...♘e6 23.♕h6 ♖d5

After 23...♕xd3 24.cxd3 ♖xd4 25.♖e1 the threat of ♖xe6 decides the game, as 25...♖d7 fails to 26.♖e3.

24.g4! ♕b7



25.♖e1 And not 25.♖h3? in view of 25...♖h5, and Black wins.

25...♖fd8 26.♖h3 ♖h5 27.gxh5 ♖xd4 28.hxg6 fxg6 29.♖he3

Black resigned.

Shrewd Operator

On May 3 Florencio Campomanes died in Baguio, 83 years old. Hans Ree remembers Campo's reign as FIDE President from 1982 till 1995 as tumultuous, controversial, but also often successful. 'We had fun', said Campo on one of his last days.

John Nunn has a nice anecdote about Campomanes in his book *Secrets of Grandmaster Chess*. The scene is a hotel in the Swedish town of Skara, where in 1980 the European Team Championship was held, an event that has become famous mainly because of the game in which Anatoly Karpov was beaten by Tony Miles, who as Black played the outrageous opening 1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5.

On arrival, the English players discovered that there were insufficient hotel rooms, a problem that was energetically solved by their team captain David Anderton, who just grabbed a bunch of spare-looking keys at the reception and handed them out.

Nunn went to his designated room, found it empty and started unpacking. Suddenly Campomanes entered the room. He looked surprised and asked what Nunn was doing in his room.

'Your room?' Nunn queried. 'It looks empty.' 'I'll prove it. Look...', said Campomanes, and with that he went to the bed, lifted up the mattress and pulled out a thick wad of cash. Nunn was convinced.

The story fits with the image of FIDE President Campomanes, running around with wads of banknotes to buy presents for anyone who was in the position to return a favour in the future. But then, Campo wasn't yet president of FIDE, at the time he was Deputy President for Asia.

One might wonder what he was doing at the European Team Championship, far outside his territory. The answer would be that Campo had been everywhere for many years already, an indefatigable traveller with a mission to make friends all over the world. I am not sure if by 1980 he had already decided to run for president, but he must certainly have been playing with the idea.

By the way, I just called him Campo, though not with the intention to pretend that I had a close relationship with him. It is said that his friends called him Campo, which is certainly true, but in fact everyone called him Campo, friend and foe.

'Good morning Mr. Böhm'

Presents and favours have certainly played a part in his campaigns, but at least as important was an asset indispensable to every full-fledged politician: an iron memory for names. He knew the first name of every chess official he would meet, and not only that, from earlier meetings he would remember the names of their wives and children, at what university the children studied, and what subjects they did.

He pampered his contacts, not only officials in charge of a chess federation, but also those who he considered to have a good chance to become their successors in due time.

What I just wrote about his iron memory for names seems be contradicted in a recent newspaper column by the Dutch IM Gert Ligterink, who wrote: 'When I met him he usually greeted me in a friendly way with the standard sentence: Good morning Mr. Böhm, I see on your face that you are intending to write something unpleasant about me.'

But maybe there is no contradiction, for mixing up the names might have been Campo's way of showing his indifference to criticism, while taking some mild revenge addressing Ligterink by the name of a somewhat weaker Dutch player.

After Campo's death the FIDE website put up an interesting article: 'Campo's Legacy to World Chess' by Casto Abundo. It was originally written in 2007 at the occasion of Campo's 80th anniversary. Casto Abundo was a longtime friend and protégé of Campo and he has served FIDE in many func-

tions. At the moment he is its Deputy President for the Asian Chess Federation.

Outsmarting Botvinnik

At some point he writes: 'After the match (he refers to Karpov-Kortchnoi, Baguio City 1978), Campo was being pushed to run for FIDE President but he declined, and told me he did not want to enter anything half-cocked. A few years later, when Campo stopped dyeing his hair black, Fridrik Olafsson teased: "You want to run for FIDE President!" How right he was, Campo thought.'

When exactly was that? Anyway, at the FIDE Congress in Atlanta in 1981 Campo announced his intention to run for president, albeit only to a small circle at the hotel bar.

If this was an indiscretion, it must have been a deliberate one. Campo was always disciplined. It was said that he could drink anyone under the table, but as Casto Abundo relates, this was sometimes done in the vicinity of a potted plant where a glass could be emptied discretely.

Of course, after that conversation at the bar Fridrik Olafsson, FIDE's president at the time, was informed of Campo's intention to run, but apparently he didn't believe it, because he thought that if it was true, his good friend Campo would surely have told him so personally.

Fridrik's doubts were soon to be dispelled. At the FIDE Bureau meeting in Tunis in 1982 Campo was nominated officially as a candidate for the presidency.

Casto Abundo writes that a contingent of 30 Filipinos had come to Tunis, including the Olympiad team. 'FIDE, used to quiet campaigns with mimeographed handouts, woke up to streamers, full-colour magazines and brochures, T-shirts emblazoned with Campo's picture and his slogan *A time for change*.' No previous FIDE president would have even contemplated such a blatant campaign.

About the actual presidential election during the Olympiad in Lucerne in 1982, I will quote Casto Abundo extensively, because he gives an intriguing inside view of chess politics in the period that the countries of the Soviet bloc always voted unanimously. There were three candidate presidents: Olafsson, Kazic and Campo.

He writes: 'Campo always dealt from strength. Just before the elections, he was tipped off that former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik had sent a telex with instructions that the Soviet bloc vote of some 20 countries be given to the Yugoslav candidate, Bozidar Kazic. Campo played on Karpov's ego. Seeing him at midnight he bluntly told him "Anatoly, I will win the elections and I will not owe you any favours." Karpov fumed "Who is world champion, I or Botvinnik? Why is he issuing orders?", as he summoned Soviet Chess Federation President and Double Hero astronaut Vitaly Sevastianov.

Sevastianov explained that they could not go against Moscow, so it was secretly agreed to halve the Soviet bloc vote between Kazic and Campo in the first ballot, a tactic Moscow would not notice, and for all their votes to go to Campo on the second ballot. After the first ballot, incumbent Fridrik Olafsson of Iceland escorted his wife out of the hall and I understood he foresaw the result of the second ballot. In a scene straight out of the Godfather movie, Campo stood in front as delegates queued down the aisle to congratulate him one by one. "The Europeans are shocked", he said, asking me not to leave his side.'

They sure were. Shocked and astounded, which suggests that they had it coming, because they had gravely underestimated Campo.

After Campo's electoral victory Ineke Bakker, the Dutch General Secretary of FIDE, did not want to have her term extended. The two staff members of the FIDE office in Amsterdam, both Dutch, announced that they would leave their jobs after a few months in which they would assist the transition. These three Dutch people had no personal quarrel with Campo. They liked him as a person, but they deeply mistrusted his wheeling and dealing.

So we learn from Casto Abundo that Karpov played a significant part in Campo's election, just as later, at the FIDE Congress in 1995 in Noisy-le-Grand, Karpov would be working hard to have Campo replaced by Ilyumzhinov. But that, as we know now, was another alliance that would not stand the test of time; political friendships tend to go sour easily.

Penguins and polar bears

When he became FIDE President, Campo was 55 years old and already had a long career behind him, both within and outside the chess world. He had studied Political Science in the Philippines and later, on a Fullbright grant, in the U.S. In New York he met the future ruler of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos, a contact that would be valuable later when Campo would organize big chess events in his home country.

After his return Campo became a lecturer in political science at the University of the Philippines, but only for two years, from 1954 till 1956.

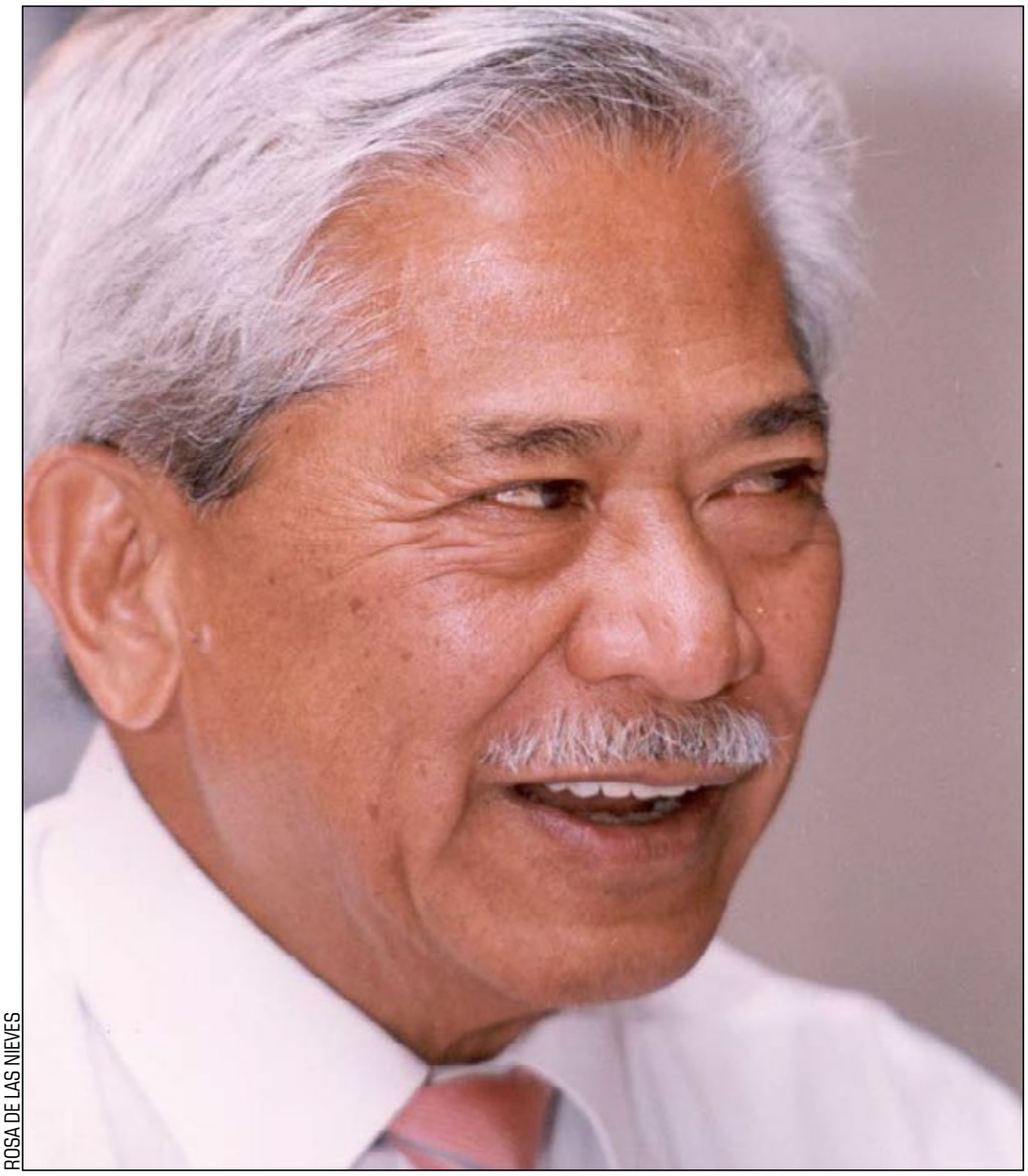
Chess and chess politics took over his life. He was a chess columnist, later the host of a daily chess programme on television. He played in five Olympiads from Moscow 1956 till Havana 1966 –

only skipping Varna 1962 – and he held various positions in FIDE.

Casto Abundo relates that at the 1968 FIDE Congress in Lugano, Campo and his friend Hasan from Indonesia were lobbying to instate a second Asian Zone for the Far East and Oceania, and that the English delegate Harry Golombek remarked that they might as well have penguins and polar bears playing chess.

For those who knew Harry Golombek this anecdote rings true. A son of Polish immigrants, Golombek took pleasure in outdoing the natives in being English, taking Samuel Johnson and his robust opinions as his model. Though I have been a victim of his wit, I always found it a pleasure to converse with him.

But penguins and polar bears, that was a mean blow with more than a whiff of racism. No wonder Campo rejoiced at the discomfort of the Europeans in 1982.



ROSA DE LAS NIEVES

Florencio Campomanes, FIDE President from 1982 till 1995, when he proposed Kirsan Ilyumzhinov as his successor.

Wild times in Baguio

His greatest coup before his presidency was bringing the world championship match between Kortchnoi and Karpov to Baguio City. It was a costly affair and his good relationship with President Ferdinand Marcos served him well.

Why Baguio? There were many offers. Kortchnoi once explained to me that both he and Karpov could indicate three cities of their choice. They both had their favourite city, but both of them thought that the most important thing was to avoid the other man's favourite city to win.

So both players gave their favourite city as their first choice. But by some intricate reasoning they both decided that it would be wise to indicate a city as their second choice which would surely be unpleasant to the other guy. Both Karpov and Kortchnoi gave Baguio City as their second choice, a place where neither of them wanted to go. And so they were off to Baguio, at least that is what Kortchnoi told me.

About the match, Kortchnoi writes in his book *Chess is my Life* that Campo was blatantly favouring Karpov. Maybe he was. For any ambitious chess politician good relations with the Soviet chess federation were essential.

Don't break the chain. Max Euwe broke the chain with the Soviet chess federation by insuring that Kortchnoi was not deprived of his right to play the Candidates' matches after his defection, and therefore lost favour and had to resign as FIDE president in 1978. Fridrik Olafsson made a great effort to have Kortchnoi's wife and son emigrate to the West, and therefore the Soviet bloc prevented his re-election in 1982. Euwe and Olafsson broke the chain.

But I must say that even after reading Kortchnoi's book, I am not sure in which way Campo showed his favouritism. He surely was in a difficult position.

These were interesting times. Early in the match in Baguio there was the yoghurt incident, when Karpov was handed a cup of yoghurt by his helpers at the board during the game, and Kortchnoi's team filed an official protest, as this could be seen as a way of providing information. Or a doping shot.

In his book Kortchnoi complains that his second Raymond Keene, who wrote the text of the protest, treated it as a joke.

Then there was the Russian parapsychologist Vladimir Zukhar. Prominent on one of the front rows

of the spectator room to hypnotize Kortchnoi, according to Kortchnoi. Just to neutralize the influence of a parapsychologist working for Kortchnoi, according to Karpov (as he wrote later).

And then, last but not least, there were Didi en Dada. Their real names were Victoria Shepard and Steven Michael Dwyer, two American members of the India-based Ananda Marga sect. They had knocked at the door of Kortchnoi's hotel room, offering to help him, and soon afterwards at every game they appeared in the spectators area, first in saffran coloured robes, later in white, bowing and praying to fight the evil influence of Dr. Zukhar.

Campo tried to restrict their freedom of movement in Baguio. In India Didi and Dada had been accused of murdering an Indian diplomat and had jumped bail. Kortchnoi reproached Campo for not respecting the civilized principle that everyone should be considered innocent until proven guilty.

This is indeed a fine principle, but security has different principles. I did a quick Google search and found that the Ananda Marga sect was connected with a series of violent actions: murders, the hijacking of a plane... One cannot really blame Campo for trying to keep these yogi's in check.

Anyway, the match of 1978 served as a stepping stone for Campo's higher aspirations.

Best way to apologize

The first crisis during his presidency came in 1983 when two Candidates' matches, Kortchnoi-Kasparov and Smyslov-Ribli, were scheduled to be played in Pasadena, California, USA. The Soviet chess federation refused to let their players go there, claiming that the hysterical anti-Soviet mood in the U.S. would endanger the safety of the players.

Most likely it was a countermove against the American boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980. For youngsters unaware of the history of the Cold War, this boycott in 1980 was a reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. One might call it chutzpah, the U.S. sermonizing about the evil of invading other countries, but that's how it went. In 1984 there was a retaliatory boycott of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles by the Soviet bloc, and the refusal to play chess in Pasadena in 1983 may be seen as a dress rehearsal.

But it backfired. FIDE declared Ribli and Kortchnoi the winners of their Candidates' matches. The Soviet federation, on second thoughts, tried to have the matches played after all, and they succeeded, but they had to pay a substantial sum for damages to both FIDE and Kortchnoi – for his willingness to play a match that he had officially won already. Maybe they paid Ribli as well, I don't know. Kortchnoi, not really wanting to stop Kasparov's rise by a formality and happy with his recompense, said that money was the best way to apologize.

Campo seemed to come out as the winner of this crisis, something that cannot be said of the next crisis, the termination of the match between Karpov and Kasparov in 1985. The score in that match, which had to be decided by six wins, was 5-3 in favour of Karpov, but the momentum – if this vague term has any meaning – was very much in favour of Kasparov.

Much has been written about this shocking and unprecedented termination, and the discussion is still going on, with new facts and opinions being added even recently. Here in New In Chess I have already quoted the historian Edward Winter, who after weighing the evidence wrote that one could only be agnostic about the real role of all the main players, a position which I will gladly emulate.

Am I not a great actor?

But Campo's decision to stop the match would continue to haunt him. There is a video on YouTube, made by ChessBase's director Frederic Friedel at the FIDE Congress in Dresden in 2005. Campo says that in 1985 everybody asked him to terminate the match, and after he had done this they all fell on him.

He also repeats the claim that it was an impromptu decision, only made once he had ascended the stage: 'I have made many decisions that way; I seek inspiration for a decision right there on the spot, facing my audience, facing the people, facing the protagonists.'

In this case I don't believe him, but in general it was probably true. He liked to improvise, hearing other people state their views and then coming out with a speech that made everybody happy and still served his interests. 'Am I not a great actor?' he whispered after one of these speeches.

In Friedel's video, Campo touched on another sore subject, the suspicion that he had made a lot of money through his involvement in chess. 'If so, where is it?' asked Campo.

Indeed, I think he was never really rich. Before his ascendency to FIDE's throne he alternated between stages of being down and out and being in bonis. He was the first FIDE president with a salary (plus a job at the FIDE office for his mistress), but it must be said that his predecessors didn't really need a salary and Campo did. I think Fridrik Olafsson also got a salary, not from FIDE but from the Icelandic government. There used to be happy times when all Icelandic grandmasters had a government salary, just for being grandmasters.

A family affair

Campo was challenged in 1986 at the FIDE congress that took place during the Olympiad in Dubai. It was a controversial Olympiad because Israel was not allowed to take part. Many countries from Europe and the Americas, among them the Netherlands, had announced a boycott of the Olympiad, in solidarity with Israel. The Dutch players that had been selected for the team, I being one of them, agreed with our federation that this was a painful but justified decision.

But then things changed. The Israeli chess federation gave up its resistance and wished the Dubai Olympiad well. All federations were notified, and now that Israel itself was reconciled with the situation – no doubt securing some favours to be paid in the future – there was no longer any real reason for a boycott.

When the information reached the Secretary of the Dutch chess federation, he put the letter in a drawer and told no-one about it. It would probably have been an intolerable increase of his workload if he had had to write a few letters to FIDE to indicate that the Netherlands would take part after all.

I went to Dubai anyway, as a journalist. The sports editor of my newspaper had said: 'Of course you realize that we send you not to write about the games, but for the presidential election.' Chess was important then. Newspapers had money.

Campo's challenger for the FIDE presidency was the Brazilian Lincoln Lucena, but he was only a strawman. The campaign was managed by the Keene family; Raymond Keene, his wife and two brothers-in-law, with Garry Kasparov's support as their main trump.

Campo was well-prepared and had been able to supply free plane tickets to Dubai for delegates of poor countries who would not be able to afford the trip otherwise. But poverty was not the only criterion. Spain, headed by Campo's ally Roman Toran, got free tickets. Portugal, a much poorer country but expected to vote for Lucena, did not.

One or two days before the actual voting the Keene family folded its hand because of lack of support. It had been no real challenge for Campo.

Crisp and efficient

A few personal memories. Earlier in 1986 I had seen Campo at a press conference during the Kasparov-Karpov match in London. Access to the stage was closed off by a ribbon, as if in a crime scene, but low enough to step over easily. But Campo jumped over the ribbon, which made me wonder. Showing off his vitality completely unnecessarily suggested he was, in fact, in a bad state.

But then, during the press conference, the American chess writer Larry Parr put a pertinent and possibly embarrassing question. Campo answered that this was fully dealt with in the FIDE Handbook, clause C. III. b.1.0.3, or something like that. Parr left the scene to check this in his hotel room and of course, at his return his point had been all forgotten by everyone around. Campo still had the touch.

In 1987 I was one of Jeroen Piket's seconds at the World Junior Championship, which was to be won by Anand. The venue was supposed to be in Manila, but when we arrived there, we were told that there had been terrorist bombings and for security reasons the tournament was moved to Baguio City. It was shortly after President Marcos' downfall, and the political situation in the Philippines was still unstable.

Probably because of the change at short notice, a lot of things were wrong in Baguio. Players and seconds complained. The next day Campo came and arranged a short, crisp and admirably efficient meeting with the representatives of the players. He listened carefully and all serious complaints were answered with the promise that things would be rectified. And indeed they were, and it happened quickly, either on the same day or on the next. On this microscopic scale it showed me how efficient an organizer Campo could be.

Overplaying his hand

In Dubai, Kasparov and the Dutch businessman Bessel Kok came together to lay the foundations of the Grandmasters Association, which was a great thing while it lasted. Its final throes were not so great. Kasparov, dissatisfied with what he considered to be the FIDE-friendly attitude of his fellow Board members, set himself on a collision course and played his world championship match against Nigel Short in 1993 outside FIDE.

Karpov and Timman, who had been eliminated in the Candidates' matches by Nigel Short, would now play for the FIDE World Championship. This match would become an organizational disaster.

The first half was played in the Netherlands, in three different cities. The second half would be played in Oman and the total prize money was announced to be four million Swiss francs, half of it coming from the Dutch and half from Oman. If this had really happened, Campo would have beaten Kasparov's and Short's rival match on at least one important point. But it was not to be.

Shortly before the end of the Dutch part of the match, the Dutch head of the organizing committee announced that regrettably they had not been able to find even one franc of prize money for the players. Bad news for Karpov

and Timman, but there still was Oman.

But a few days later it became clear that Oman did not want to have the second leg of the match, and in fact had never seriously considered to have it at all. Campo had overplayed his hand, making promises that he couldn't keep, hoping that 'something would come up'.

The last two games in Amsterdam were pre-arranged draws. Karpov, being two points up, came to Timman's hotel and explained that of course he wouldn't want to lose a game, but that winning one more game was even more abhorrent to him. In that case he would be leading by three points, and nobody would be interested in organizing the second half of the match. In that case both he and Timman would be left with not a cent of prize money and a big bill from their seconds. Better to make two draws, and so it happened, and who would blame them in their predicament?

The evidence of the crime can still be seen in the 12th game of the match, where Karpov had an advantage and then suddenly let it go, inexplicably allowing Timman to exchange all rooks and reach a completely equal position. The previous game had been an 11-move draw.

A few weeks later the second part of their match started in Jakarta. Campo's longtime friend Bob Hasan was willing to pay the organizational costs, but not the prize money. That money, a disappointing 1 million Swiss francs, was somehow provided by FIDE itself. This 'somehow' would have consequences later.

Enter Kirsan

In 1994 Kasparov, who in earlier years had acted as an implacable enemy of Campo and FIDE, made a turnabout by first persuading Campo to stand for re-election and then campaigning hard for him at the FIDE Congress during the Moscow Olympiad. Campo and Kasparov won, but it was to be a short-lived victory.

In 1995 came Kirsan. Casto Abundo writes that in Moscow in 1994 Campo had already told him that he had met a very interesting man, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. One year later, at the FIDE Congress in Noisy-le-Grand near Paris, Campo proposed Kirsan as his successor.

The transition was nowhere as smooth as this account may suggest. Campo was in trouble because it had been ascertained that FIDE, outside its pre-approved budget, had made payments of more than 300,000 Swiss francs to Campo, Makropoulos and other FIDE employees.

Had they filled their own pockets illegally? Jan Timman told me once that Campo and Makro in the rush before the second part of his championship match against Karpov, had had to advance part of the prize money privately. Later they had to get it back from the FIDE funds somehow.

So, if that was the case, Campo and Makro may have had a sort of moral right to these unauthorized payments to themselves.

'I am not a crook, cunning is my art', Campo once said over dinner to the English chess organizer Stewart Reuben. Financial transparency had never been a priority for him. There had always been funds that could partly serve as a handy private expense account, such as CACDEC, the Committee for Assistance to Chess Developing Countries, which was a worthy organization in principle, but often served as the proverbial policeman's ball.

In Noisy-le-Grand, Karpov, Kouatly and Ilyumzhinov took up a communal campaign room and worked hard. Apparently it took some time to persuade Campo that this interesting man Kirsan was his destined successor, but as the American delegate Steve Doyle wrote in his report, 'by the end of the night Karpov had convinced Campo that the time had come to step down.'

Kirsan was voted in as president by the delegates, who would have been hard-put to spell or pronounce his name, 'for one year'. Campo became Honorary President, like all his predecessors, and Honorary Chairman of the Board, a new title.

'We had fun'

And so he would become the grand old man of chess politics, still influential, I think, and still around at every important chess event. Life was not always easy. For years he was involved in a serious case before an anti-graft court in Manila, from which he finally escaped with a tiny fine. In 2007 he barely survived a car crash in Turkey, just as he had survived an earlier crash in Uganda.

He died on May 3 in a small hotel of a friend in Baguio. To Casto Abundo, who had come to visit him on one of his last days, he said 'We had fun'.

He certainly had fun, this plucky man, and he accomplished many of his aims. He brought FIDE's membership from about 100 to about 150 countries. He spread chess in Asia and through most of his reign he was able to find very big prize funds for World Championships and even the Candidates' matches.

He really loved chess and was always a happy joker when he was playing blitz between his political duties. Often manoeuvring on the edge of legality he was never popular in the West, with its insistence on financial transparency and democratic procedures. He was no saint, but after 15 years of Kirsan, I am almost nostalgic for the Campo years.

HANS REE

ROWSON'S REVIEWS

Who Owns Chess Ideas?

If a thief snatches your bag on the street, it is a crime. You may lose things of value like your laptop or iPhone, but above all you feel violated. Somebody has wrongfully taken something that was yours without giving you anything in return. The theft of physical property tends to be clear-cut like this, but the theft of intellectual property is much more complicated.

Intellectual property concerns the ownership and expression of mental products, and concerns vexed issues about the nature of ideas, the meaning of ownership, and the complexity of the creative process. Such issues have become even more complicated because of the Internet, where ideas freely abound, are often wrenched out of context, and can spread in a viral manner. The core difficulty is that you can see the boundary lines of physical property, but ideas are built upon other ideas, and so their boundaries are always and necessarily fuzzy, which is why intellectual property is the province of lawyers.

We feel the pinch of such laws in many ways, for instance when pharmaceutical companies make life saving drugs prohibitively expensive because they claim to 'own' the ideas that led to the creation of the drugs, and claim they need such ownership in order to incentivise future research. I also feel the pinch personally because I know from friends on the ground that my chess books have sold literally thousands of copies in India, where chess is booming, but I won't see any royalties, because most of the cut-price copies sold are churned out by Xerox machines. I also know that at least one of my previous books was scanned and sold cheaply online as a pdf file, again bypassing the processes that would give the author and publishers remuneration. I am not particularly outraged by these developments, and recognize that technology and globalization have made it much harder to control intellectual property. But still, it rankles a bit.

In chess, there appears to be an unresolved legal issue about whether anybody can rightfully own the copyright to the moves of a chess game. Determining the basis of such ownership is not simple, and to the uninitiated it might seem you can get round the problem by offering broadcasting rights to match or tournament organisers instead. The challenge is that in most sports people gladly pay to watch the live action, while others get a relatively pallid description of events from live blogging or news flashes, but in chess there is very little distinction between the events of a chess game (players making moves) and the expression of them in text (algebraic notation).

We care mainly about the algebraic description of the ideas, not the physical act of them being played. You can restrict access to people seeing the 'action' quite easily, but it is much harder to stop them coming to know of the outcome of the action, i.e. the moves because those moves are co-produced, in the public domain, and using a common language. The decision on such matters probably comes down to the bugbear of finding the right metaphor for chess. As a sport, spectating matters; as an art, the games are like poems, using an existing language to create an original and often beautiful form; but you can also view games as akin to software creation, building on existing work and collaboratively owned.

This predicament poses a problem for sponsors. From a commercial perspective it would be great to be able to guarantee that everybody watching a match will watch it at the same place, thereby creating a massive audience for advertisers. However, since chess spectators generally only really want to know the moves, anybody who has access to them can profit from them in their own way, for instance by setting up rival live commentary. This issue appears to be becoming increasingly important as chess organisers try to harness the power of the Internet to attract commercial sponsors.

As for chess books, most are based on games already played, many of which are printed in other books or magazines. The notes to these games can also be appropriated, as can the diagrams, and the verbal rationale for why one move is better than another. In such cas-

es, where we use ideas from other sources to create our own content, it is customary and correct to make reference to where we took these ideas from. However, quite a few chess authors neglect to reference their work to the extent that they should, and this can lead to accusations of plagiarism which has varying degrees, but in essence means that somebody is using somebody else's ideas and profiting from them as if they were their own.

I'll give an example of why such matters are not clear-cut. *Play the Grünfeld* by Yelena Dembo (Everyman 2007) is a creditable book on a great opening that is close to my heart. However, I couldn't help but notice that the recommended repertoire, although by no means identical with my own in *Understanding the Grünfeld* (Gambit 1999) contains considerable overlap, to an extent that made me uncomfortable. That said, there is an eight-year gap between the publications and the books look and feel different. Perhaps many of the lines I suggested are the best, and just need a little updating, which has been done in places. Moreover, thankfully my book is praised in her bibliography, so I felt my ideas had been recognised to some extent. In this case, although still surprised to turn the pages and see so many of my own recommendations in somebody else's book, including a few of my mistakes, I can settle for the idea that imitation is often the sincerest form of flattery.

On such matters there is wide scope for interpretation, and a continuum of guilt from a mild breach of etiquette to a major breach of the law. In my view plagiarism is not a binary matter of strict legality, but more about degrees of respect for other people's work. Plagiarism can mean directly copying, such that the material looks like a photocopy, and in a chess context this might mean lifting puzzles and solutions from one source, and presenting them as original problems in another. Alas, such lifting is not an uncommon occurrence, which is why a puzzle book today really has to strive to distinguish itself in terms of originality of content and format.

Plagiarism can also involve casually rephrasing an existing idea and passing it off as your own original idea or using the explanatory apparatus of another, and failing to attribute it accordingly. In the latter case, for example, if one author works hard to find examples to illustrate the theme of 'prophylaxis', and annotates those games with close attention to the details that connect to this wider theme, he can rightfully expect that anybody writing about prophylaxis with respect to this work should not use too much of the material, and should offer the appropriate acknowledgment when he or she does.

My views on these matters are reasonably strict, but not severe, because I believe that our feelings about intellectual property are shaped by our educational background rather than our moral nature. Evolution gave us moral instincts, but not on textual indiscrepancies. Moreover, constantly saying where you learned of an idea, and writing out the reference is definitely burdensome, and it is mainly in the academic world that people put a premium on such scruples. My feeling for this issue was formed in my final year at Oxford where I wrote a philosophy essay in haste that contained three paragraphs that were directly copied from one of the readings that I hadn't attributed at all. I am very grateful to my tutor, Christian List, because he simply told me that he had noticed 'something familiar' about my essay, and then added, with masterful understatement, that such copying was 'not a good academic style'.

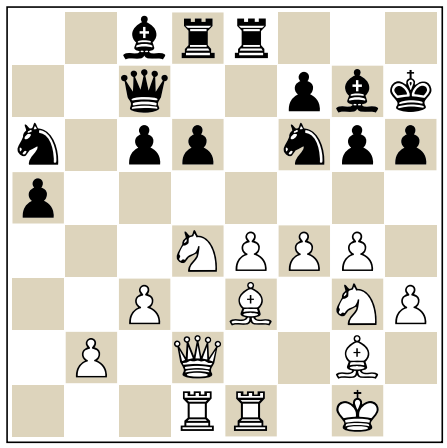
But I am aware that this attitude might seem odd. Millions of people download music and films and books and all sorts of other intellectual property with apparent impunity, and many people just don't see the problem at all. It's there, I just click, and it's mine to use. Everybody else is doing it so what's the problem? Attitudes on such matters vary considerably.

Which brings me to *Mastering Positional Chess* by Daniel Naroditsky (New In Chess). The idea of a fourteen year old writing a book on positional chess for club players is original and ambitious and I think we need more chess books that break the mould in this way. However, the first issue that bothered me was that, as somebody who has played World U-14, 16, 18 and the 'real' World Junior (U20) and failed to win any of them despite being a real contender, it irked me slightly that the author was portrayed on the back of the book as a 'World Junior Champion', a major title he would share with Kasparov, Karpov, Anand etc. In fact Daniel Naroditsky won the World U-12, which is still a significant achievement of lifelong value, but hardly the same. Highlighting that distinction may sound churlish, indeed it probably is churlish, and the mistake was no doubt the fault of the publisher rather than the author in any case.

The much larger issue is that apart from Daniel's own games, which were fresh and annotated in a lively and engaging manner, I was very familiar with almost all the other examples, most of which I had seen several times in several places. This predicament in itself is no crime, because it is possible to give original and useful perspective on familiar material, indeed John Donaldson says as much in his thoughtful preface. Moreover,

it is very clear that I am not the target audience for the book, and that most club players, for whom the book is intended, will not have seen the examples before. Nonetheless, I did feel a bit troubled, particularly by the section of prophylaxis, which heavily borrows from the Dvoretsky/Yusupov literature without attribution.

Consider the following example:



Karpov-Timman
Montreal 1979

I immediately recognised this example from the Dvoretsky/Yusupov literature, where this game is given as an example of prophylaxis: **22.♕c2!!** So that 22...♘c5 can be met with 23.b4. **22...♗d7 23.♘f3! ♖e7 24.♗f2! ♗e8 25.♕d3! ♕b7 26.♖a1!** and Black will soon lose material.

If this example were a one-off, there would be no issue, but the young author takes several examples that look very much like they were taken from the Dvoretsky/Yusupov literature, without attributing the source either in the text or bibliography. The author's age certainly makes this behaviour more forgivable, and if you felt generous you might even say that his interpretation of these examples is more accessible than the sources from which they derive. Certainly Naroditsky's alacritous authorial voice is not the same as Dvoretsky's more analytical tone, but these are nonetheless the same examples used to express the same ideas, and a different tone is not really sufficient justification for the extent of the replication.

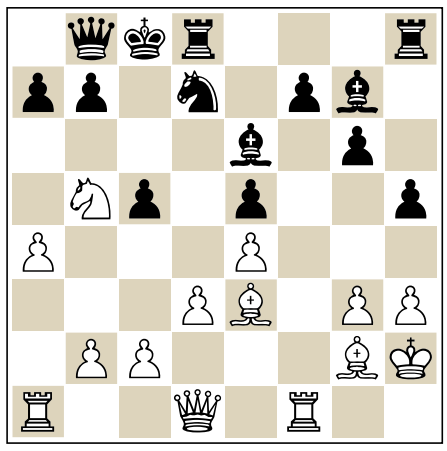
Chessvibes.com gave a very positive review of the book, which is in many ways deserved, while the comments under the review feature a discussion about the degree of the copyright infringement. The comment that made the sharpest impression was from 'Palooka': 'If you are experienced enough to notice that and to find that annoying then you are not in the target market for most of these books... If a game beautifully illustrates a point I couldn't care less what century it came from or how well known it is – the point is instruction, not novelty. If you want novelty, buy NIC.' Which I am guessing you already have... unless you are reading a pirate scanned copy on your computer.

To cut Naroditsky some slack, I was reminded of a particularly scathing review of my second book, *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins* by Taylor Kingston on Chesscafe.com, and a rebuttal by Jeremy Silman: 'Taylor Kingston: "Like its subject, this is a very problematic book; I can't quite settle on a definite assessment. At worst it is a pretentious, barely mitigated disaster." This was some of the nicer stuff Kingston said about *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins*. I've never hidden the fact that I enjoy Taylor Kingston's reviews, and I especially love it when he goes berserk and assassinates a writer who deserves a well-earned, brutal beating. In this case, though, he is missing the forest for the shrubs. Here Kingston puts blinders on and sees nothing but the flaws, while blithely overlooking the soul of the message, and the innocence of the delivery.'

I am grateful to Silman for highlighting 'the innocence of the delivery', and Daniel Naroditsky deserves the same courtesy. I do think he used far too much material from familiar sources (not just Dvoretsky/Yusupov) without appropriate attribution, but he is by no means the only chess author to have done so, and I am sure he meant no disrespect, especially not to Dvoretsky and Yusupov whom he has clearly learned a lot from! Moreover, the book does have considerable value, and will be enjoyed by most of its target audience. The following game shows the author competently wrestling with positional questions, but also indicates scope for improvement in his analysis, and hopefully reminds the reader that mastering positional play is a lifelong task.

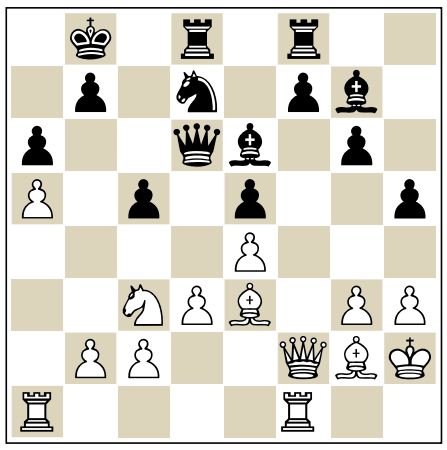
RE 21.3 – A04
Daniel Naroditsky
John Daniel Bryant
Reno 2008

1.♘f3 g6 2.g3 ♗g7 3.♗g2 ♘f6 4.0-0 d6 5.d3 c5 6.e4 ♘c6 7.♘bd2 ♗g4?! 8.h3 ♗d7 9.a4 ♕c8 10.♔h2 h5 11.♘c4 ♕c7 12.♗f4 I think the author's exclam is misplaced. 12.♘g5!? preventing queenside castling and planning f4-f5 looks even better. **12...e5 13.♗e3 ♘d4 14.♘g5 ♘e6 15.♘xe6 ♗xe6 16.f4 0-0-0 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.♘a3! ♘d7 19.♘b5 ♕b8**

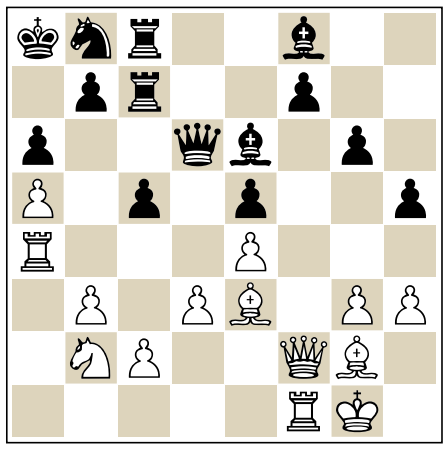


20.♕e1?! The author suggests this move is better than 20.b4!, but I felt it was timely to attack, so I looked a little deeper: 20...a6 (20...♗f8 may be necessary) 21.bxc5 axb5 22.axb5 ♗f8 23.c6 ♘c5 is offered by the author, and so far the

line makes sense, but now 24.♕f3 is given leading to an unclear position, which is relatively obtuse compared to 24.b6! bxc6 25.♖a7! ♕xb6 26.♕a1!, when Black is toast. I found this line without silicon assistance and it gave me a lot of pleasure – as I have written before, the desire to look for such errors is actually a compliment to a book! **20...a6 21.♘c3 ♕d6 22.a5! ♔b8** 22...f5!? – playing aggressively is not out of the question, even if it opens up the h1-a8 diagonal, because White's king is also somewhat vulnerable. **23.♕f2 ♖hf8?!**



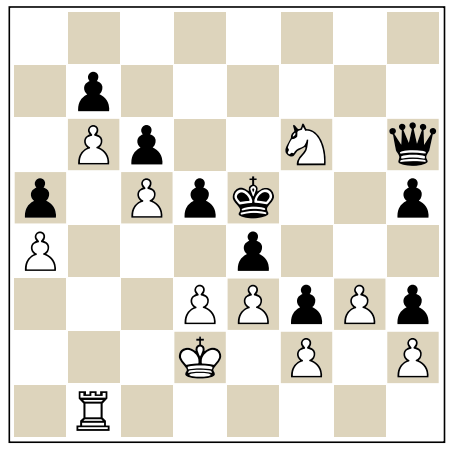
23...♗h6!? Surely this move, exchanging a relatively passive bishop for a relatively active one, should at least be considered in a book about positional chess. I am not even sure White is better in that case. Indeed I slightly prefer Black. **24.♕f3!** The sign of a good player, preventing the opponent's active play. **24...♖c8 25.♖a4 ♖c7** 25...c4!? should at least be mentioned. Isn't this pawn break the reason Black played 24...♖c8? **26.♔g1!** The autor's exclam feels a little gratuitous here. The move looks like the attempt to be deep and positionally refined, rather than the real thing. **26...♖hc8 27.b3 ♔a8!** Again, the exclam here, in recognition of the ♘b8-c6-d4 idea, feels misplaced. **28.♘d1 ♘b8 29.♕f2 ♗f8 30.♘b2**



30...♕d7?? It is really only here, with this gratuitous positional blunder, that White gets the upper hand. After 30...♘d7 31.♘c4 ♕e7 White certainly has a pull, but Black's position looks tenable. **31.♘c4 ♗xc4 32.♖xc4 ♘c6 33.♕d2 ♘d4 34.♔h2!** Positional judgment is very often a matter of comparing pieces – in this case it is worth comparing the rooks, after which White's advantage becomes evident. **34...♕b5?! 35.♗xd4!** Showing a good sense of timing, exploiting a tactical feature and understanding that the presence of opposite bishops actually increases rather than decreases winning chances in the circumstances. **35...cxd4** 35...exd4 is not even mentioned! Doubtless White is somewhat better in that case, but compared to the game, it does not look so bad for Black. **36.♖xf7! ♕xc4 37.bxc4 ♖xf7 38.♕g5! ♖f2 39.♕xe5 ♖xc2 40.♕xd4** 'Black has no way to stop e4-e5, after which the g2 bishop will prove deadly.' **40...♗b4 41.e5 ♗c5 42.♕d7 ♖b8 43.e6 ♖e2 44.d4 ♗a7 45.c5 ♖b2 46.c6 ♖f8 47.cxb7+ ♔b8 48.♕d6** Mate.

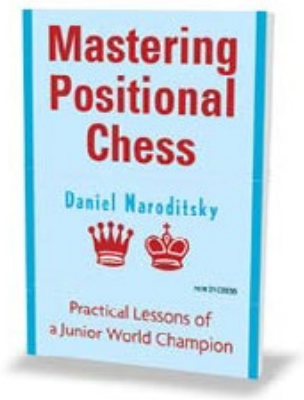
The author adds a rich and instructive paragraph: 'Despite the seeming simplicity of this game, it contained many subtle points. Note that in spite of the g2 bishop's passivity, it played a crucial role in stopping Black's counterplay, since it could come back to life with deadly effect at any moment. Also, note how White didn't execute his plan before making sure that all of Black's counterplay was eliminated. This leads us to the next point: most tactical players have one main weakness: they aren't patient. In many cases, your position is better, but you can still improve it. The temptation to try to win the game immediately is very big, but learning to parry all of your opponent's threats before cashing in is a skill that a strong player has to have...'

I trust Naroditsky will be more careful with his sources in the future, and I look forward to his future work because he is likely to become a strong Grandmaster and an excellent annotator in the new Anish Giri tradition. His annotations in this book will be satisfying and instructive up to about 2200, and there is something quite inspiring about receiving such precocious instruction. Finally, the book contains some lovely puzzles, one of which struck me as particularly sweet:



Hasek 1951
White to move and draw

1.♘g4+ hxg4 2.d4+ ♔e6 3.♖h1!! ♕f8 4.♔e1 ♕a8 5.♔f1 ♕a6+ 6.♔g1 and Black cannot make progress.

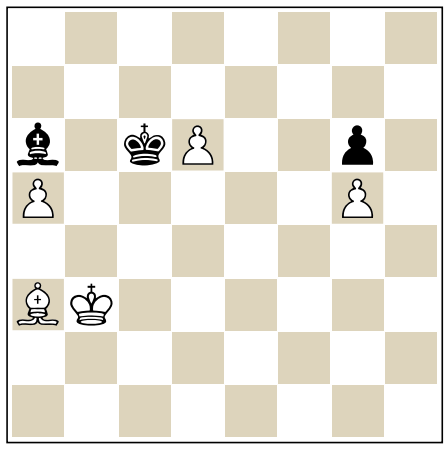


Mastering Positional Chess
Daniel Naroditsky

JAN TIMMAN

Endgame lessons from Anand-Topalov

In endgames with opposite-coloured bishops, it is often of great importance for the defender to determine exactly which roles the king and bishop are going to play. Averbakh provides a classical example of this principle:



Averbakh 1954

With White to move, Black has no time to organize his defence. White wins with **1.♔c3 ♗f1 2.♔d4 ♗e2 3.♔e5 ♔d7 4.♔f6 ♗d3 5.♔f7 ♔d8 6.♗b4 ♔d7 7.♗c5 ♔d8 8.♗b6+ ♔d7 9.♗c7** and Black finds himself in lethal zugzwang.

Black to move could organize his defence as follows:

1...♔d7 2.♔c3 ♔e6

The white king's road to the kingside has been blocked. But this is not the end of Black's troubles.

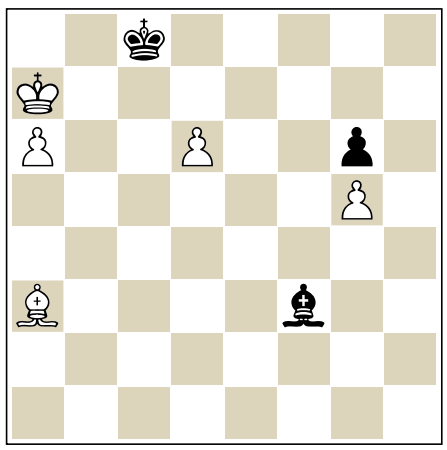
3.♔d4 ♗b7!

It is very important to put the bishop on the long diagonal.

4.♔c5 ♔d7 5.♔b6 ♗f3

Black could also play his bishop to another square of the long diagonal, but not to h1.

6.a6 ♔c8 7.♔a7



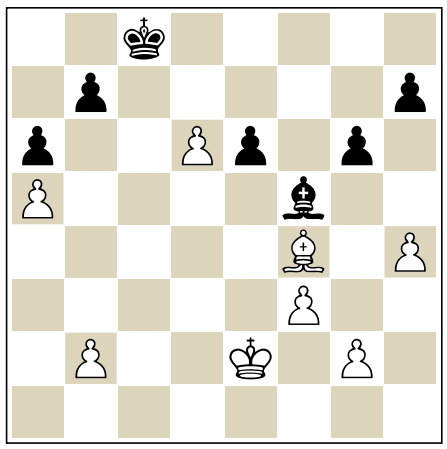
7...♗g4!

The tables have been turned. Now the bishop will have to stop the white d-pawn.

8.♔b6 ♗f3 9.♔c5 ♔d7 10.♔d4 ♔e6

And White will make no progress.

This theme of the division of roles also came up in the eighth match game Topalov-Anand.



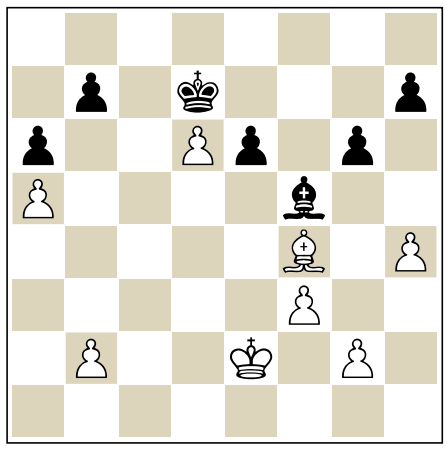
Topalov-Anand
Sofia 2010 8th match game
position after 34.exd6

White has an extra pawn, as well as chances to penetrate the enemy camp with his king. Black's defensive task is made more difficult by the fact that the white g-pawn is still on g2, which makes it impossible to build a defensive line with h7-h5. The division of roles is important: the black bishop will have to stop the d-pawn, while the king will have to prevent its white counterpart from penetrating the kingside.

Shipov wrote that Kasparov initially regarded the position as winning for White, but changed his mind when he saw the black plan: the black bishop to the a4-e8 diagonal, the black king to f7. Anand will also execute this plan, but fails to go for the correct move order.

34...♔d7?

Obvious but wrong. Correct was 34...♗c2!, intending to meet 35.♔e3 with 35...♔d7.

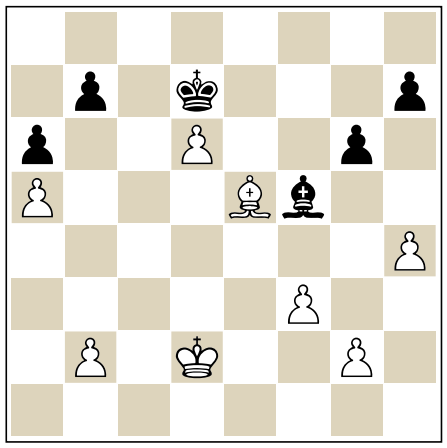


35.♔e3?

Topalov fails to exploit Black's error. With 35.♔d2! he could have dominated the black bishop, after which the plan would be to take the king to e5 via c3 and d4. Taking this roundabout route actually gains a tempo, and if Black re-

mains passive, he will be unable to prevent the white king from penetrating via f6.

The most tenacious defence is 35...e5. This pawn sac is still possible, and in certain circumstances it will guarantee a draw. Black vacates square e6 for the king, making it easier to organize the division of roles between bishop and king. Because the bishop is not yet positioned correctly here, this turns out to be insufficient. After 36.♗xe5 Black has the following possibilities:



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 36...♗e6 37.♔e3 ♗c4 38.♔f4 ♗f1 39.g3! ♗e2 40.♔g5 ♗xf3 41.♔h6, winning the h-pawn, after which White gets advanced passed pawns against which there is no cure;

B) 36...♔e6 37.g4 ♗b1 38.♔c3! ♗a2 39.b3! ♗b1 40.♗g3, and Black is in zugzwang. He will have to withdraw his king, because the bishop has no squares: 40...♔d7 41.♔d4 ♔e6 42.♔c5 ♔d7 (otherwise White will go 43.♔b6) 43.♔d5 ♗d3 44.♔e5 ♗e2 45.♔f6 ♗xf3 46.g5, and White again wins the h-pawn. Black can then still cover his g-pawn from h5, but this division of roles between bishop and king will soon collapse because Black will find himself in zugzwang, e.g. 46...♗h5 47.♔g7 ♔e6 48.♔xh7 ♔d7 49.♔g7 ♔e6 50.♗e5 ♔d7 51.♔f7 ♔d8 52.♗f6+ ♔d7 53.♗e7 ♔c8 54.♔e8 ♗g4 55.h5!, and wins.

35...♗c2! Now Black is fine again.

36.♔d4

The attacking player may also have problems with the division of roles. After 36.♗e5 ♗a4 37.♔f4 h6! White would make no progress.

36...♔e8

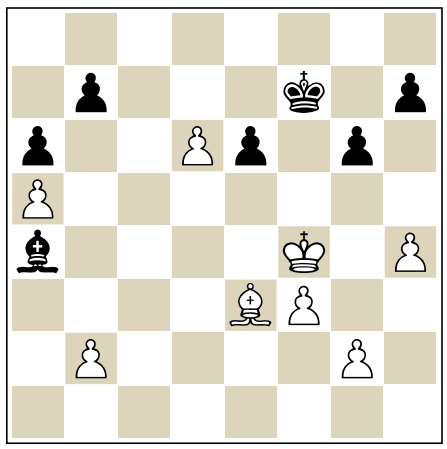
Just in time.

37.♔e5 ♔f7 38.♗e3

After 38.♗g5 Black would have an effective defence in 38...♗a4. By withdrawing the bishop White vacates squares f4 and g5 for the king.

38...♗a4 39.♔f4

On its way to g5.



39...♗b5

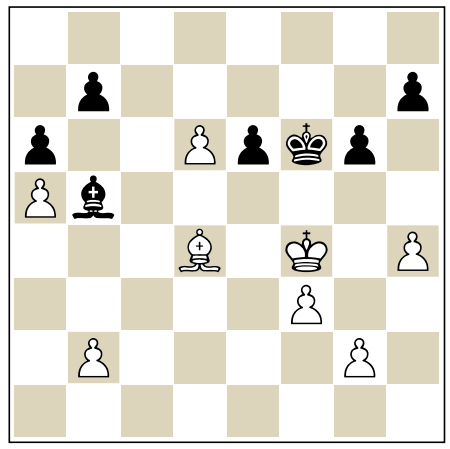
The alternative 39...♔f6, intending to meet 40.♗d4+ with 40...e5+ 41.♗xe5+ ♔e6, was insufficient. White sacrifices the d-pawn with 42.♗c3, paving the way to h6 for the white king. On *ChessVibes* someone suggested that Black could then defend as follows: 42...♔xd6 43.♔g5 ♔e6 44.♔h6 ♔f7 45.♔xh7 ♗c6 46.♔h6 ♗d5. But here White has a simple win in 47.h5 gxh5 48.♔xh5, and the white king returns to e3 or f2, after which the pawn duo on the kingside can be set in motion. Without the queenside pawns the position would indeed be drawn, because Black can then give his bishop for the two passed pawns.

40.♗c5

Harikrishna indicated the immediate 40.♔g5 here, giving the following line: 40...♗e8 41.♔h6 ♔g8 42.♗d4 ♗d7 43.g4 ♗c6 44.f4 ♗d7 45.♗e5 ♗c6 46.h5 gxh5 47.♔xh5 ♔f7 48.♔h6, and now *ChessVibes* correctly indicates that Black can save the draw with 48...♗e4! (instead of 48...♔g8?).

This again shows how important the division of roles between king and bishop is: with the black bishop covering the h-pawn, the black defences are well organized.

40...♔f6 41.♗d4+



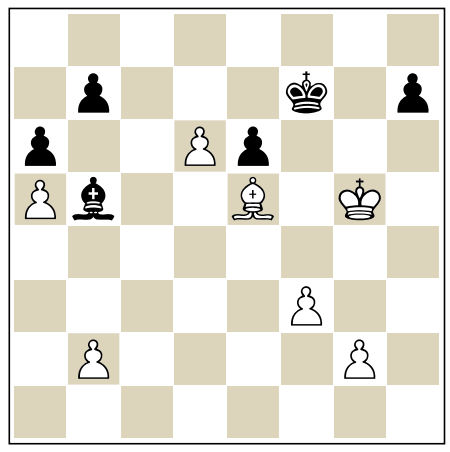
41...♔f7

After some thinking Anand decides to take up a passive position, which is indeed enough for a draw. Given the situation, incidentally, he could also have played 41...e5+, as after 42.♗xe5+ ♔e6 43.♗c3 he can draw with 43...♗f1.

42.♔g5 ♗c6 43.♔h6 ♔g8 44.h5

Otherwise White will make no progress.

44...♗e8 45.♔g5 ♔f7 46.♔h6 ♔g8 47.♗c5 gxh5 48.♔g5 ♔g7 49.♗d4+ ♔f7 50.♗e5 h4 51.♔xh4 ♔g6 52.♔g4 ♗b5 53.♔f4 ♔f7 54.♔g5



54...♗c6??

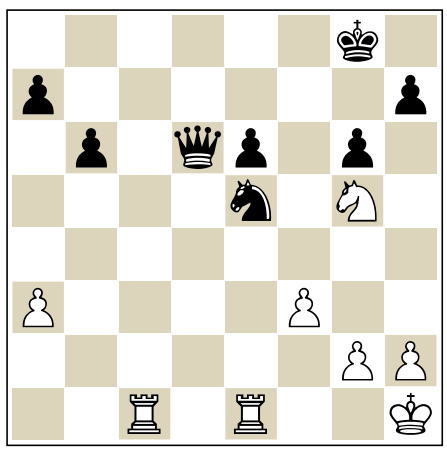
A terrible blunder. In an unguarded moment Black loses sight of the

division of roles between king and bishop. All kinds of bishop moves would have been sufficient to hold, always keeping in mind that 55.♔h6 must be met by 55...♗d3.

55.♔h6 ♔g8 56.g4

Black resigns. The white winning plan looks as follows: 56...♗b5 57.g5 ♗c6 58.♗g7! ♗e8 59.f4, and Black is in zugzwang. 59...♗c6 is met by 60.g6, and the black king remains cut off. Anand later said that he had briefly forgotten about ♗g7, which he had actually seen in an earlier position.

This Topalov win restored the tension in the match. It was also getting harder for both players: the games were getting longer as a result of Topalov's uncompromising stance. But in Game 9 it was mainly because Anand overlooked a direct win just before the time-control.



Anand-Topalov
Sofia 2010 9th match game
position after 32...♕d6

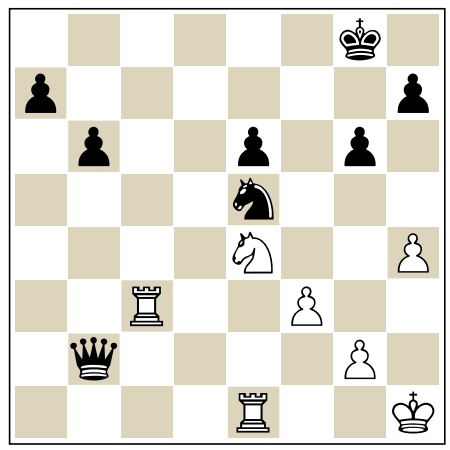
33.♘e4

At the first glance, this looks like a sound strategic move, but as Giri correctly observes on *ChessBase*, the g5 knight is perfectly positioned for an attack. He indicates the following winning line for White: 33.♖c8+ ♔g7 34.♖ec1 ♔h6 35.h4, and the black king is caught in a mating net. A relatively simple variation, but it is possible that Anand did not know exactly how to continue after 35...♔h5 36.♖h8 h6. Now White must keep his cool and not allow any counterplay. The only winning move is 37.♖e1!, with the point that 37...♘d3 38.♘e4 ♕f4 39.♖e2 leads to a quick mate.

33...♕xa3

Now it's not so easy. The black passed pawns on the queenside are going to make themselves felt.

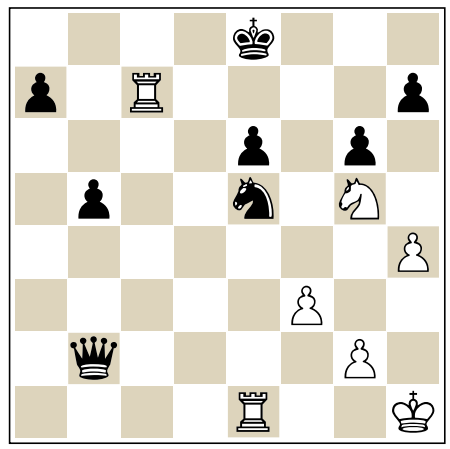
34.♖c3 ♕b2 35.h4



35...b5

Giri observes that it would make more sense to advance the a-pawn, giving the following variation: 35...a5 36.♖c8+ ♔g7 37.♖c7+ ♔g8 38.♖d1 ♘d3 39.♖d7 ♘c5 40.♖a7 ♘d3 41.♔h2 ♕e2 42.♖d2 ♕e3 43.♘f6+ ♔f8 44.♘xh7+ ♔e8 45.♘f6+ ♔d8 46.♘e4, and concluding: 'Black's position looks horrible, but may in fact be tenable.' And it's true that after 46...♔c8 there is no win for White.

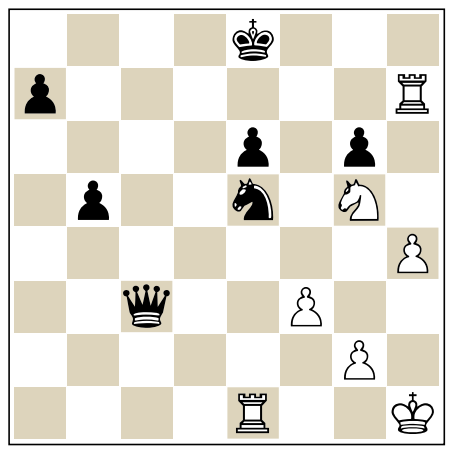
36.♖c8+ ♔g7 37.♖c7+ ♔f8 38.♘g5 ♔e8



39.♖xh7

An understandable move with so little time left. White could have won in a study-like manner with 39.♘xe6, the main line going as follows: 39...♘xf3 40.♖d1! ♘d2 41.♖xa7 ♕e5 42.♖xh7 b4 43.♘c5! ♕xc5 44.♖a1 ♕c6 45.♖a8+, and the endgame is totally winning for White. But this was extremely difficult to spot in time-trouble.

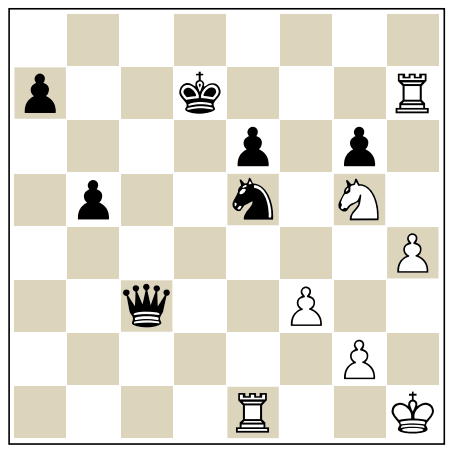
39...♕c3



40.♖h8+?

The notorious 40th move. White allows the black king to escape, after which the fight is completely open again. White had two good moves with his other rook: 40.♖e2, as indicated by Giri, and 40.♖e4, indicated by Pein and others. I think both moves are winning, but Giri's suggestion seems slightly more convincing. After 40.♖e4 b4 41.♖xa7 b3 42.♖b7 ♕c1+ 43.♔h2 b2 44.♖a4 ♕a1 45.♖ab4 ♕e1 46.♖xb2 ♕xh4+ 47.♘h3 White will eventually manage to win. Giri's variation goes as follows: 40.♖e2 b4 41.♘xe6 b3 42.♔h2! a5 43.♖c7 ♕a1 44.♖b7 ♕c3 45.♖b5 ♘c4 46.♖b8+! ♔e7 47.♖xb3 ♕xb3 48.♘d4+, and White has a winning knight ending.

40...♔d7 41.♖h7+



41...♔c6

NEW IN CHESS

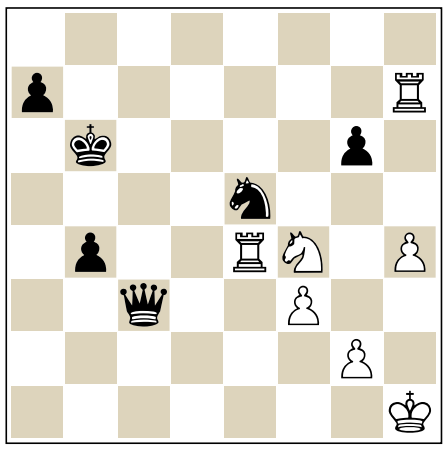
Time to think things over. Veselin Topalov has a glass of wine in the company of his brother Aleksandar and his second Ivan Cheparinov.

Somehow Anand must have overlooked this simple move. Visibly upset, he sat shaking his head. But the fight continues, and White still manages to get pretty far.

42.♖e4 b4

Topalov's concentration seems to leave something to be desired as well after this unexpected windfall. The text is not exactly wrong, but 42...♔b6 would have been safer.

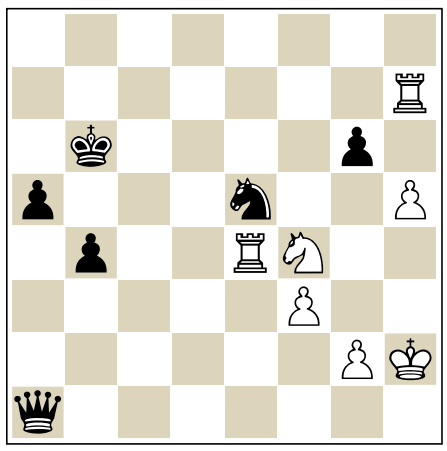
43.♘xe6 ♔b6 44.♘f4



44...♕a1+

The wrong check, although the text is probably not losing. With 44...♕c1+! Black could have forced a draw. After 45.♔h2 ♘c6 46.♖g7 b3 47.♖xg6 Black has the surprising resource 47...♕d2!. The aim of this queen move is to keep the white knight away from d3. White can capture the c6 knight, but then the passed b-pawn will become dangerous, as witness 48.♖c4 b2 49.♖gxc6+ ♔b7 50.♖c7+ ♔b8 51.♖c8+ ♔b7 52.♖4c7+ ♔a6 53.♖c6+ ♔a5!, and White cannot win.

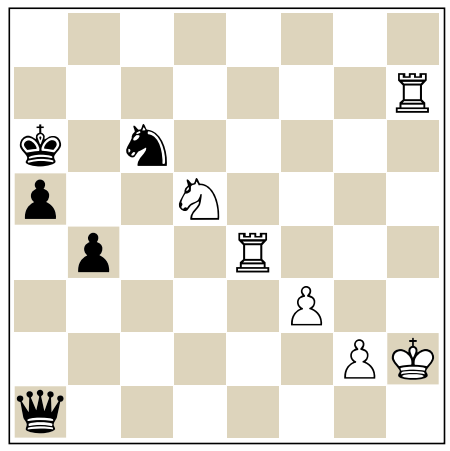
45.♔h2 a5 46.h5



46...gxh5

Now Black is lost. Absolutely necessary was 46...g5, intending to keep the kingside as closed as possible. Giri doubts whether Black would have been able to save the game in this way. It seems to me that Black has just enough counter-chances. After 47.♖h6+ ♔b5 48.♘e6 the king escapes with 48...♔a4!. The white h-pawn isn't all that dangerous yet.

47.♖xh5 ♘c6 48.♘d5+ ♔b7 49.♖h7+ ♔a6



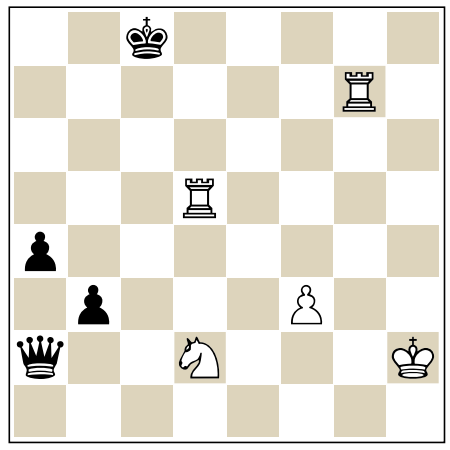
50.♖e6

Systematic play. The black king is gradually driven into a corner.

50...♔b5 51.♖h5 ♘d4 52.♘b6+ ♔a6 53.♖d6 ♔b7 54.♘c4

This makes the win problematic. With 54.♘d5 White could have driven the enemy king into a mating net.

54...♘xf3+ 55.gxf3 ♕a2+ 56.♘d2 ♔c7 57.♖hd5 b3 58.♖d7+ ♔c8 59.♖d8+ ♔c7 60.♖8d7+ ♔c8 61.♖g7 a4



62.♖c5+

Hoping for 62...♔d8, when 63.♖h5! ♕xd2+ 64.♔h3 wins on the spot.

62...♔b8

Now White is forced to repeat moves.

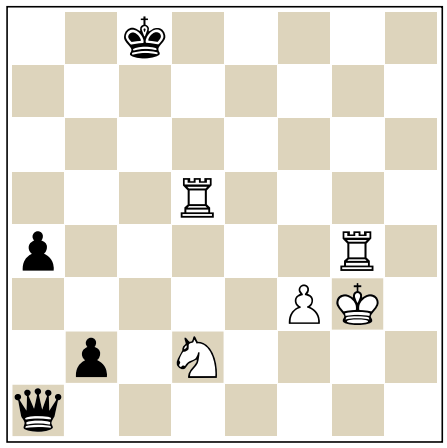
63.♖d5 ♔c8 64.♔g3 ♕a1 65.♖g4

Nerves are making themselves felt. Anand allows the win to slip

through his fingers. He played the text virtually a tempo. With 65.♖dd7 he could still have won. The threat is 66.♖a7, and Black has no perpetual check.

65...b2

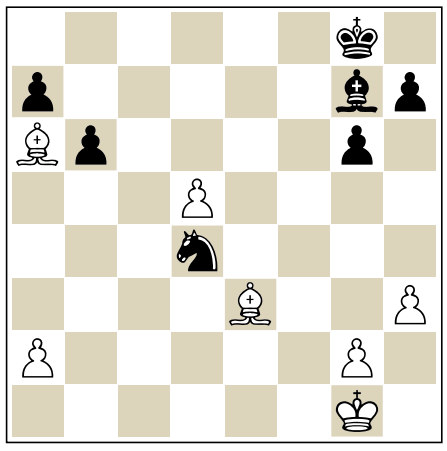
The salvation. White no longer has a mating attack and is forced to give his knight for the b-pawn.



66.♖c4+ ♔b7 67.♔f2 b1♕ 68.♘xb1 ♕xb1 69.♖dd4 ♕a2+ 70.♔g3 a3 71.♖c3 ♕a1 72.♖b4+ ♔a6 73.♖a4+ ♔b5 74.♖cxa3 ♕g1+ 75.♔f4 ♕c1+ 76.♔f5 ♕c5+ 77.♔e4 ♕c2+ 78.♔e3 ♕c1+ 79.♔f2 ♕d2+ 80.♔g3 ♕e1+ 81.♔f4 ♕c1+ 82.♔g3 ♕g1+ 83.♔f4

Draw.

This narrow escape by Topalov was a sign that he was sitting pretty in the match psychologically. In Game 10 he managed to get a slight endgame advantage from the Grünfeld Indian.



Topalov-Anand
Sofia 2010 10th match game
position after 28.exd5

White has the bishop pair, which gives him a slight plus. In my book *Power Chess with Pieces*, I give a number of practical examples fromd endgames in which the bishop pair outplays bishop and knight.

In one of the examples Anand succeeds in using the bishop pair magnificently against Tiviakov. In this position the white advantage is not large because of the closed character of the position. Black has already almost built a fortress.

28...♗e5

Taking control of the h2-b8 diagonal.

After other moves, White could have continued with the strong 29.♗g3.

29.♔f2 ♔f7 30.♗g5

Preventing 30...♔e7 and simultaneously opening the way to the centre for the white king.

30...♘f5 31.g4 ♘d6 32.♔f3

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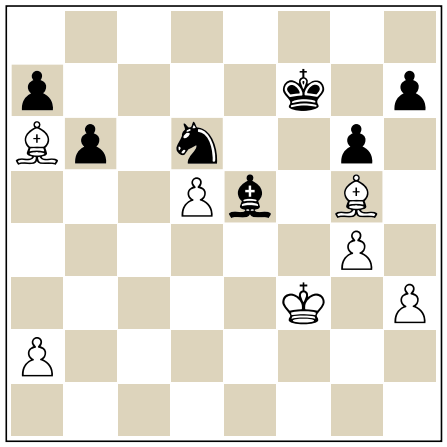


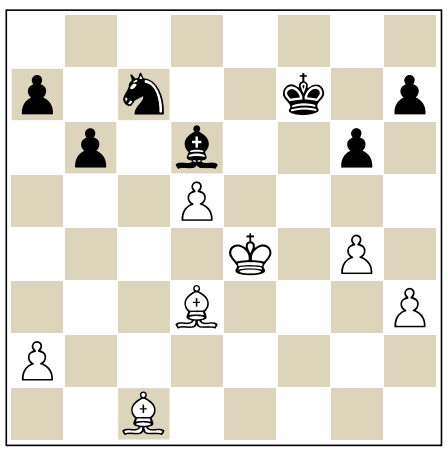
32...♘e8 A remarkable move. At first sight Black seems to have a solid blockade, but apparently, Anand is not entirely sure about it; otherwise, why would he have regrouped? The alternative was 32...♗f6, intending to meet 33.♗f4 with 33...♔e7, after which Black threatens to build a fortress with 34...g5, forcing White to advance his g-pawn. After 34.g5 ♗d4 35.♗d3 White is ready to advance his h-pawn, and Black will not have it easy at all.

33.♗c1 I do not understand this retreat. If White wants to get anywhere in the endgame, he'll have to act as decidedly as possible. 33.♗c8 ♘c7 34.♔e4 ♗d6 35.a4, maintaining the pressure, looks like a good alternative.

33...♘c7 34.♗d3 ♗d6

The immediate 34...b5 was not really possible in view of 35.♗a3.

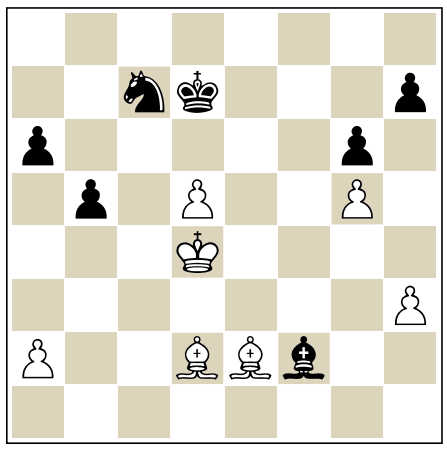
35.♔e4



35...b5! A strong move. Black enlarges his queenside territory. **36.♔d4 a6 37.♗e2 ♔e7 38.♗g5+ ♔d7 39.♗d2**

Topalov continues to hold back, although his bishop moves are not entirely without venom. White is ready to advance his g-pawn.

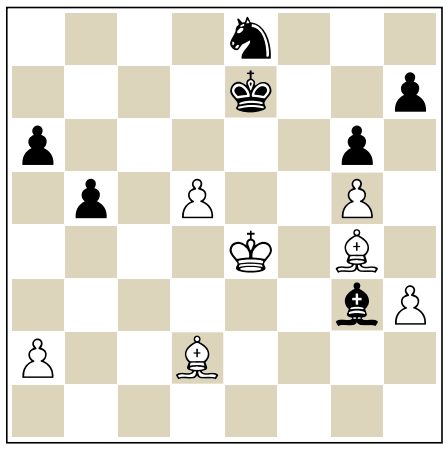
39...♗g3 40.g5 ♗f2+



41.♔e5

Giri recommends 41.♔e4 here: 41...♗c5 42.h4 b4 43.h5 ♔e7 44.hxg6 hxg6 45.♗d3 ♘b5 46.♔f4 ♘c3, with the conclusion that the position is probably drawn. But it seems to me that White can be quietly optimistic here after 47.♔e5. The idea with b5-b4 seems dubious to me. Black's counterplay is slow, and the position is being opened for the bishop pair. Black would be better off playing 42...♘e8, when 43.h5 would be met by 43...♘d6+ to secure the draw.

41...♗g3+ 42.♔e4 ♘e8 43.♗g4+ ♔e7

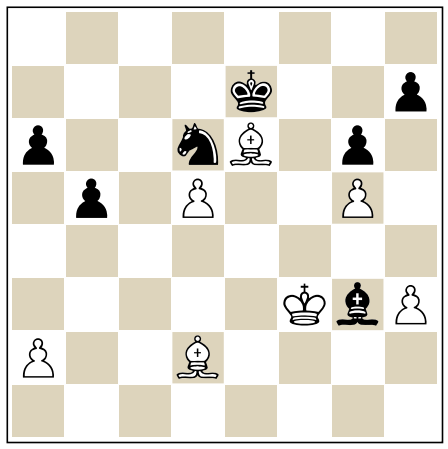


44.♗e6

White is starting to lose the thread of the position. Maybe he was dreaming of playing the bishop to g8 at some stage. But in what follows this is never a realistic option, and after a while the bishop would have to return to g4 empty-handed. In the meantime, Black will be able to organize effective counterplay on the queenside.

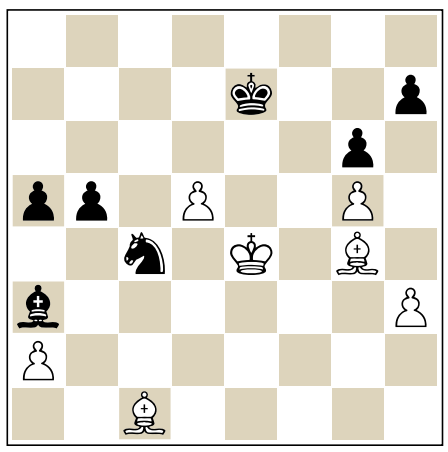
A good move was 44.♔f3, although it hardly leads to anything after 44...♗d6.

44...♘d6+ 45.♔f3



45...♘c4! Clever play. White must not allow his opponent to swap the dark-squared bishops.

46.♗c1 ♗d6 47.♔e4 a5 48.♗g4 ♗a3



49.♗xa3+

White would have been better advised to settle for move repetition with 49.♗f4 ♗d6 50.♗c1. After the bishop swap Black will have an theoretical advantage.

49...♘xa3 50.♔e5 ♘c4+ 51.♔d4 ♔d6 52.♗e2 ♘a3 53.h4 ♘c2+ 54.♔c3 ♘b4 55.♗xb5 ♘xa2+ 56.♔b3 ♘b4 57.♗e2 It is high time to aim for a draw. **57...♘xd5 58.h5 ♘f4 59.hxg6 hxg6 60.♗c4** Draw.

And so the match remained balanced. It would be interesting to know whether Anand would have got more out of this endgame on the white side of it.

GARRY KASPAROV

Dva Matcha

I once wrote a book on two world championship matches, my first two (completed) matches against Anatoly Karpov. Now a column on two matches, also both at the highest level. Vishy Anand defended his title against Veselin Topalov in Bulgaria. Meanwhile, a former world champion, Anatoly Karpov, is challenging Kirsan Ilyumzhinov for the presidency of FIDE. It came as a small surprise that the dirty tricks didn't take place in Sofia, but in Moscow.

Chess moves should be given precedence over political moves, so I will begin with Vishy's close call against Topalov. Despite the narrow margin of victory, I will stay with my original forecast and say that the better chess player won the match. Anand could not maintain his highest level consistently, but after saving Game 11 he came back with enough energy to finish the job in the final game.

The last game of a match, like the last round of a close tournament, has a life of its own. Topalov played as if he were a point down and needed a win at all costs. He must have been terrified of facing Anand in rapid tiebreaks, and it is difficult to fault him for this. The Bulgarian must also have been under tremendous psychological pressure. His manager Danailov had raised an impressive two million euros and expenses and national support at the highest level and Topalov was absolutely required to win.

How else to explain Topalov's play in Game 12? He is not a great positional player, but neither is he capable of such nonsense. After a string of comfortable games he could not cope with a new opening and took too many risks. Anand has already revealed in interviews that we were in touch before and during the match, so I'm not giving anything away when I say we talked about his choice of defence in the final game. To me the Queen's Gambit was natural, using one's brains to make a 'no-brainer' decision.

First off, it put Topalov in a difficult situation; he was facing a new defence and a very solid one when he felt he needed to win. And who can argue against what has been called 'the world championship opening'? It has become clear that, once again, the Queen's Gambit is the King's choice. This is part of an undeniable trend toward 1.d4 at the highest level. Over the past three world championship matches, 35 games in total – 39 if you include the Kramnik-Topalov rapid games –, 1.e4 was played only once. That was by Anand when he only needed a draw in Game 11 against Kramnik!

Partly, this has been a normal reaction to the success of the Petroff and Berlin Defences in neutralizing the white pieces. It also illustrates the success ever-stronger computers have had in analysing forced sequences to drawn positions. My failure to make progress with 1.e4 against Kramnik in our 2000 match has not been ignored. On the other hand, Anand must have forgotten my loss in the second game of that match, and for this he paid the price.

Before the match Anand sent me 31 questions and I'm glad he welcomed the advice of a retired player. At one point I was reminded of the reaction of GM Sergey Shipov when we talked about my preparation for Kramnik in 2000. He looked horrified. 'The Grünfeld for your main weapon with black?' he asked. 'Yes.' 'Oh my god!' I felt the same way when Anand said he was planning the Grünfeld for Topalov. It's a very risky opening for match play in general and, despite the Bulgarian's difficulties against Kamsky, it was a dangerous choice for Anand. Allowing himself to be tortured in the Elista endgame in the Slav was also unwise, since it goes against his active style. Only Kramnik can bear the suffering of those positions! Unlike me in 2000, Vishy did not have problems with the white pieces and that allowed him to turn the tables. After he lost Game 1 I offered some reassurance: 'No need to panic. There are eleven games left. You have an extra white and need to score +2. What's the problem!?'

Kramnik and Carlsen also rallied to Vishy's banner before and dur-

ing the match. The story of the chess world coming to Anand's aid is likely to be mirrored in the second of our two big matches, that between Karpov and Ilyumzhinov for the FIDE presidency. As is already known, I am actively supporting my old rival's bid despite the odd sensation of being on the same side of the virtual board after so many years of intense competition between us. We are united in agreement that Ilyumzhinov has been a disaster for the game of chess. And we share many beliefs in how to set a correct course – by returning FIDE to the federations and by modernizing and professionalizing the game as a sport at long last. Chess must be dragged out of the obscure venues and back rooms where Ilyumzhinov has relegated it. I also like what Karpov has said about the greatest potential for growth coming from Asia and the developing world.

I never believed it was going to be an easy fight, even though Karpov has obvious virtues as a globally known and respected former world champion. Ilyumzhinov has had 15 long years to entrench himself and, despite referring to the FIDE presidency as 'a hobby' on the Vladimir Pozner show in April, he apparently has a great deal at stake.

Just how much became known after Karpov won a vote for the Russian nomination for FIDE president in the Supervisory Council of the Russian Chess Federation on May 14. Kirsan's ally on the Council, President Arkady Dvorkovich, did everything he could to derail the democratic process, eventually boycotting his own meeting. Several days later, Dvorkovich sent private security forces into the hallowed halls of the Central Chess Club to kick Council Chairman Alexander Bakh out of his office. Files and computers were seized, the RCF website was taken over like a radio station during a coup, and access to the Federation's bank accounts was sealed. Dvorkovich is a presidential aide in the Medvedev administration, so it's no surprise these tactics come naturally to him. It will be a tragedy if he is allowed to split the Russian Chess Federation because his favoured candidate lost an open vote.

As the campaign progresses it will be interesting to see if chess professionals, who have so much to gain from Ilyumzhinov's exit, will do more than send the ineffectual letters of endorsement we signed for Bessel Kok four years ago. Ask not what chess can do for you...

SCOJOPHOTO FOR KARPOV2010.ORG

How about that? At the Karpov2010 campaign kick-off party in New York, 9-year-old Adrian Durkin is introduced to Anatoly Karpov, Magnus Carlsen and Garry Kasparov.

JUST CHECKING

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ELO-RATING: **2659**

DATE OF BIRTH: **April 5,1985**

PLACE OF BIRTH: **Leiden, the Netherlands**

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: **Oegstgeest, the Netherlands**

NEW IN CHESS

What is your favourite colour?
Next!

What kind of food makes you happy?
Apple pie.

And what drink?
Fresh orange juice.

What was the best or most interesting book you ever read?
During the Anand-Topalov match I read *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I bought the book in Sofia, where there was not a lot of choice in English. But when the cover said that Bill Clinton was full of praise for this book, I didn't hesitate for one second and got it. Bill was right ☺.

What is your all-time favourite movie?
Tough choice between the first part of the *Matrix* trilogy and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

What is your favourite TV series?
Black Books was great. Watch it ☺.

What music do you like to listen to?
I only have the stuff my sister put on my mp3 player.

Do you have a favourite painter or artist?
As a kid I used to like Mondriaan. I am planning to make my comeback in the cultural scene in 10-15 years.

Who are the three greatest chess players of all time?
No surprises here: Kasparov, Fischer, Karpov.

What do you see as your best result ever?
Third place at a very strong European Championship U-10 in 1995. More recently qualifying for Amber 2010 by being the best 'Rising Star' at the 2009 NH Chess Tournament.

What was the best game you have ever played?
Mamedyarov-Smeets, Wijk aan Zee 2005.

What was the most exciting chess game you ever saw?
Gashimov-Stellwagen at the European team championship in Novi Sad in 2009. It was the last game, deciding the championship. Tension, drama, everything. Too bad I missed half of it because of some silly doping control.

What are chess players particularly good at (except for chess)?
I guess logical thinking, quickly taking decisions.

Do chess players have typical shortcomings?
Complete lack of skill in everyday tasks. Or am I just talking about myself now?!

Who or what would you like to be if you weren't yourself?
Something cool that can fly, a dragon.

Which three people would you like to invite for dinner?
Genghis Khan, Albert Einstein and maybe a pharaoh.

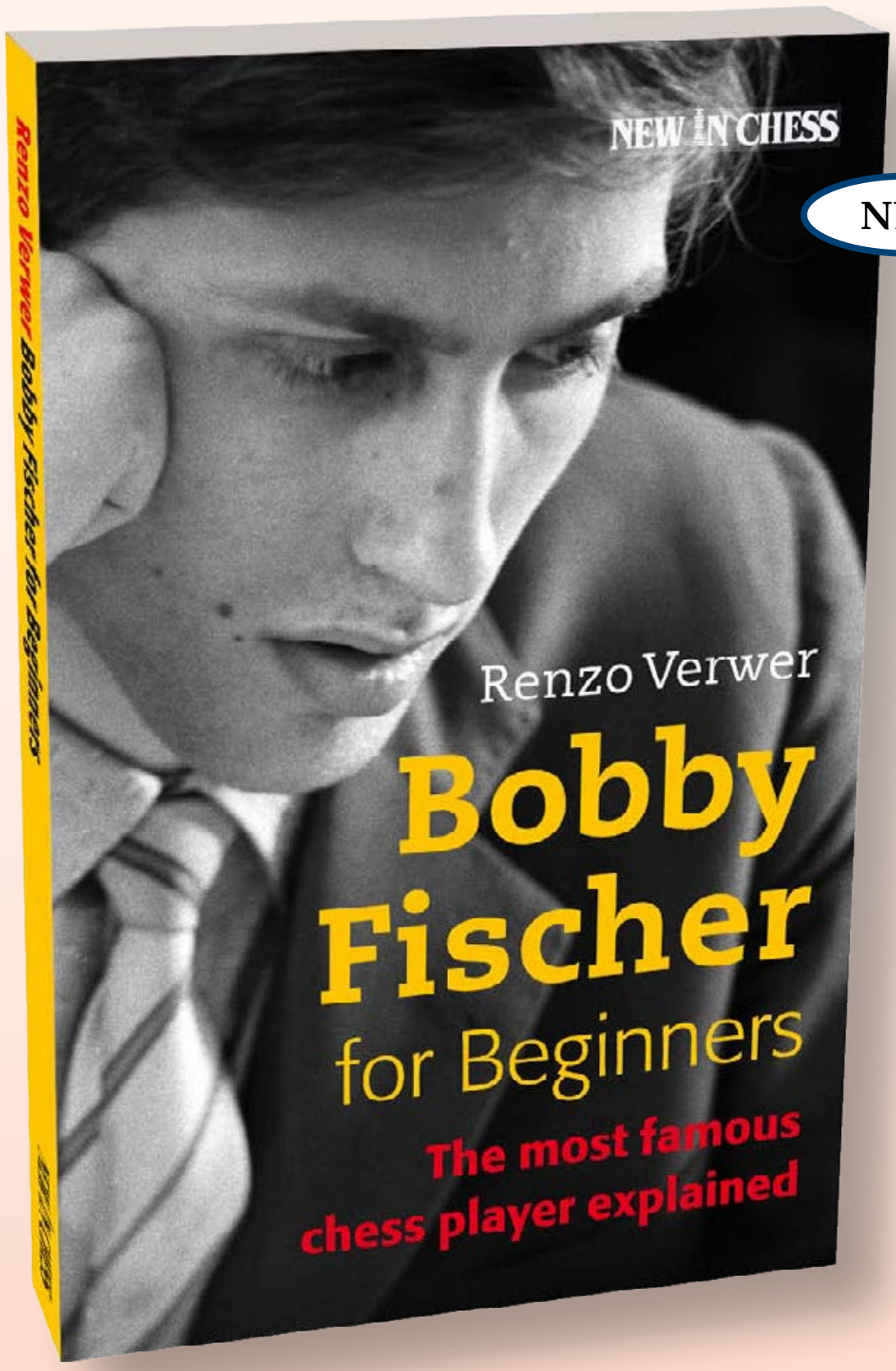
Is there something you'd love to learn?
Drumming.

What would you save from your house if it were on fire?
This reminds me of a fire alarm going off in a London hotel. The story ends with me at the reception asking for a new key – in my underwear.

What is the most stupid rule in chess?
En passant. If you think about it, this is just so random.

Is a knowledge of chess useful in everyday life?
Obviously not.

“What do you do for fun?”



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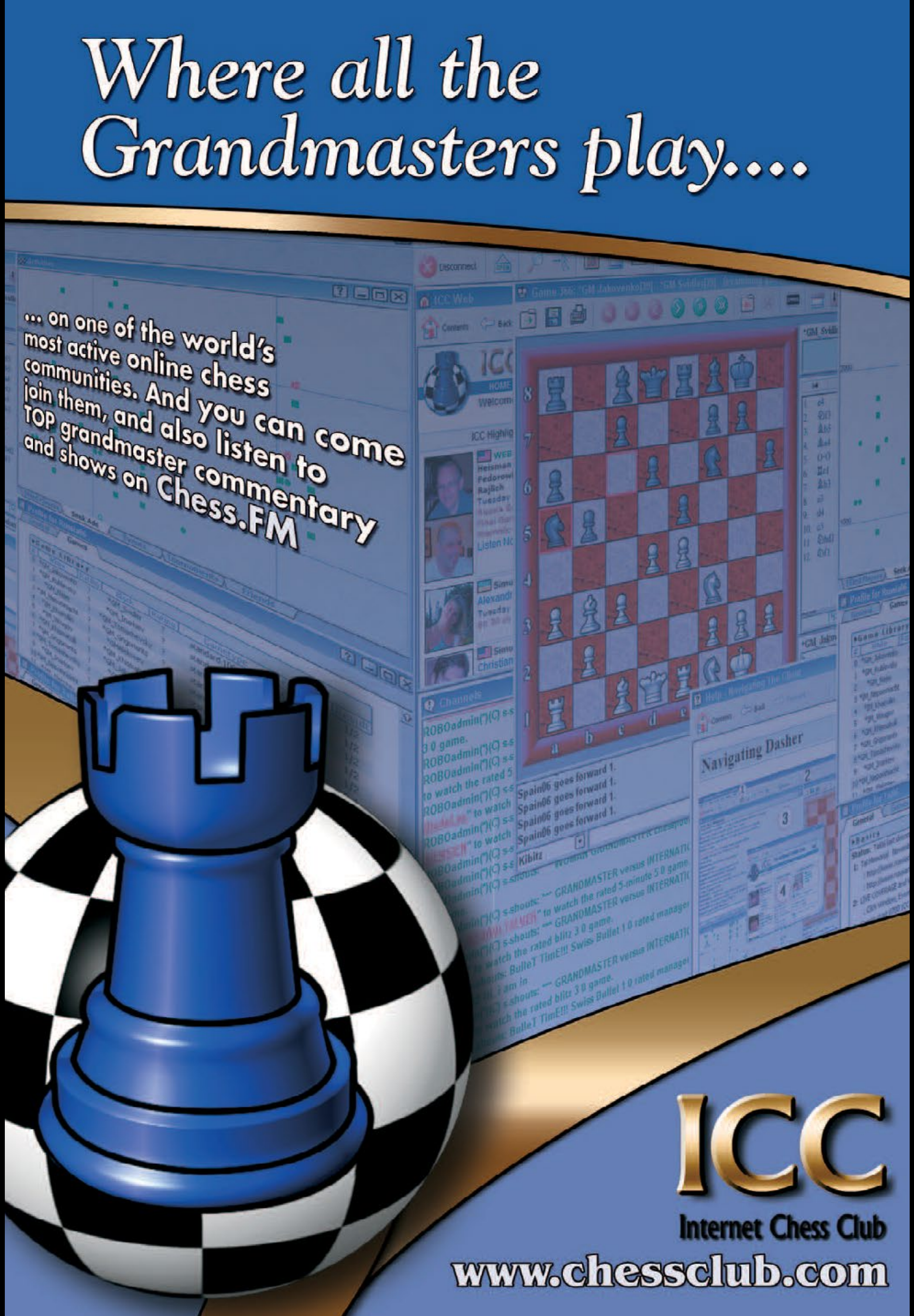

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